MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHOR

THERE'S GOING TO BE A SOUNDTRACK CD.

IT HAS BEEN MY DREAM TO INCLUDE A SPECIAL CD YOU CAN LISTEN TO AS YOU READ, SO I'M REALLY GLAD.

DOES THAT COUNT AS A DREAM...?

月刊フラワーズ
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坂道のアポロン

小玉ユキ Kodama Yuki

4

坂道のアポロン 4 小玉ユキ

小学館
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坂道のアポロン4

小玉ユキ

作品紹介

★60年代後半、九州。転入生の薫は不良の千太郎と出会い、苦しかった学校生活が一変！　ジャズを通じて千太郎と友情を育み、純朴な律子に恋をして、失恋して…。傷心の薫は、幼い頃に離れた母を訪ね、東京にやってきたが!?

収録作品　「坂道のアポロン」④／「エレベーター・チャイルド」

小学館
FCα2626

●小玉ユキの単行本

坂道のアポロン ①〜④
羽衣ミシン
光の海
●小玉ユキ短編集
①マンゴーの涙
②Beautiful Sunset

Cover design／名久井直子

坂道のアポロン④

坂道のアポロン 4

小玉ユキ

＊flowersフラワーコミックスα＊

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＊flowersフラワーコミックスα＊

character introduction

Nishimi Kaoru

A brillant student who had transferred from the city of Yokosuka in the summer of his first year.

Lives with his uncle.

Played piano as a child. and loves playing jazz now.

Kawabuchi Sentarou

A delinquent in the same class as Kaoru.

Is a bright and cheerful drummer. but has been lonely. as he was a child of mixed parentage. raised by his uncle and aunt.

Mukae Ritsuko

The girl Kaoru likes.

Is Sentarou's childhood friend. and is a gentle and caring girl.

However. she appears to have feelings for Sentarou...

Fukahori Yurika

Sentarou fell in love at first sight with her.

She's part of the art club. and likes jazz. An Ojousama with good looks to match her curiosity.

Katsuragi Junichi

Sentarou calls him Jun-nii. He lives in the pastry shop next to the Mukae family. but is going to university in Tokyo.

Mukae Tsutomu

Ritsuko's dad works in a record shop. His hobby is to play jazz in the basement studio of his shop.

the story so far

The year is 1968. Kaoru had transferred to a local high school. and had met Sentarou. who inspired him to pick up jazz. He also falls in love with Ritsuko. and his suffocating high school life takes a surprising turn!

Kaoru tries to help Sentarou get along with Yurika. and tries to improve his relationship with Ritsuko at the same time. Even knowing that Ritsuko liked Sentarou. pushing his feelings onto her only led to his rejection. He takes it out on Sentarou. but instead he finds out something about him. and their friendship deepens.

A depressed Kaoru then goes to Tokyo to look for his mother. while Sentarou tags along. He finally meets his mother...!

SCÉNE 16

ARE YOU
...

KAORU
...?

トゥー

IS IT OKAY FOR ME ...

TO CALL HER "MOM"?

...

MY MOTHER?

IS THIS PERSON ...

トゥー

MO...

YOU IDIOT!

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!!

WHY ARE YOU STANDING OUT...

IN THIS POURING RAIN!

坂道のアポロン④

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HURRY UP!
...
カラーン
カラーン
COME ON IN!
SORRY, CAN I BORROW A TOWEL FOR THESE TWO KIDS?
AND THREE OF THE USUAL, PLEASE!

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH LUXURIOUS CURRY!

a pork cutlet on top of curry rice!

WHAT IS THIS!?

SHE'S VERY DIFFERENT,

FROM WHAT I IMAGINED HER TO BE.

HER VOICE IS A LITTLE DRY AND HUSKY.

GO ON, KAORU, HAVE SOME!

THERE'S NO NEED TO HOLD BACK.

YOU LOOK LIKE A BIG EATER TO ME!

GO AHEAD, IT'S FOR YOU!

A, ARE YOU SURE I CAN EAT THIS...?

후후후

THIS IS DELICIOUS!

I LIKE MEN WHO EAT HEARTILY.

THAT'S A GOOD APPETITE YOU HAVE THERE!

HOT!

SHUT UP!

THAT WAS A PERFECT PARENT-CHILD UNISON!

WHAT WAS THAT?!

HAHAHA!

HE'S A FRIEND I'M PLAYING MUSIC WITH.

YEAH ... OR SHOULD I SAY,

IS HE A FRIEND FROM SCHOOL?

MUSIC?

PARDON HIS LACK OF MANNERS.

HE CAME ALONG UNINVITED.

PIANO!?

YES, I'M PLAYING JAZZ...

AH! KAORU, YOU USED TO ENJOY IT WHEN DAD PLAYED THE PIANO, DIDN'T YOU!

HE'S THE DRUMMER,

AND I PLAY THE PIANO...

AND WHEN I SANG ALONG,

KAORU WOULD STOP CRYING IN AN INSTANT!

THERE'S A PIANO IN DAD'S FAMILY HOME, AND HE PLAYED IT OFTEN.

IT WAS THE HAPPIEST TIME OF MY LIFE!

...AH, THAT PERSON IS PRETTY CONCERNED WITH APPEARANCES.

HE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT HIS EMBARRASSING WIFE IN FRONT OF HIS SON.

DAD NEVER...

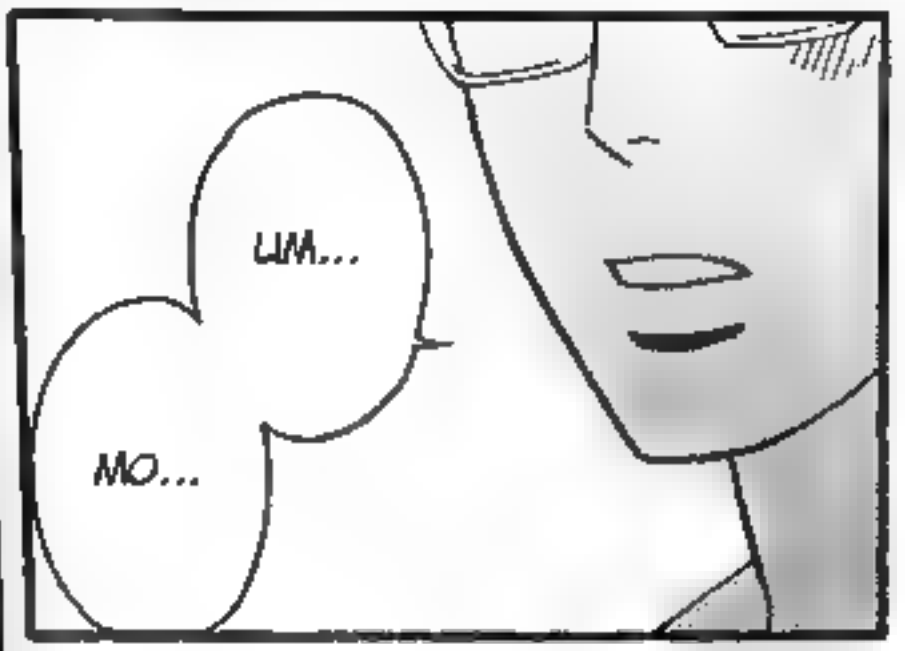
TALKS TO ME ABOUT THE PAST ...

...R, REALLY ...

I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT...

SO HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT ME...?
...

MOM,
WHY ...
WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND?


UM...
MO...

! I COULD NEVER HATE YOU...!
BUT... YOU NEVER GOT IN TOUCH!
DID YOU...
HATE ME AND DAD ...?
I... WAS LONELY ALL THIS WHILE.
WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE A LETTER, AT LEAST?!

...YOU SEE,

I WASN'T IN A POSITION ...

TO EVEN WRITE A LETTER...

I CAN'T READ, NOR WRITE.

ACTUALLY,

SO... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME.

...

AND BECAUSE I HAD TO HELP OUT ON THE FIELDS EVERY DAY,

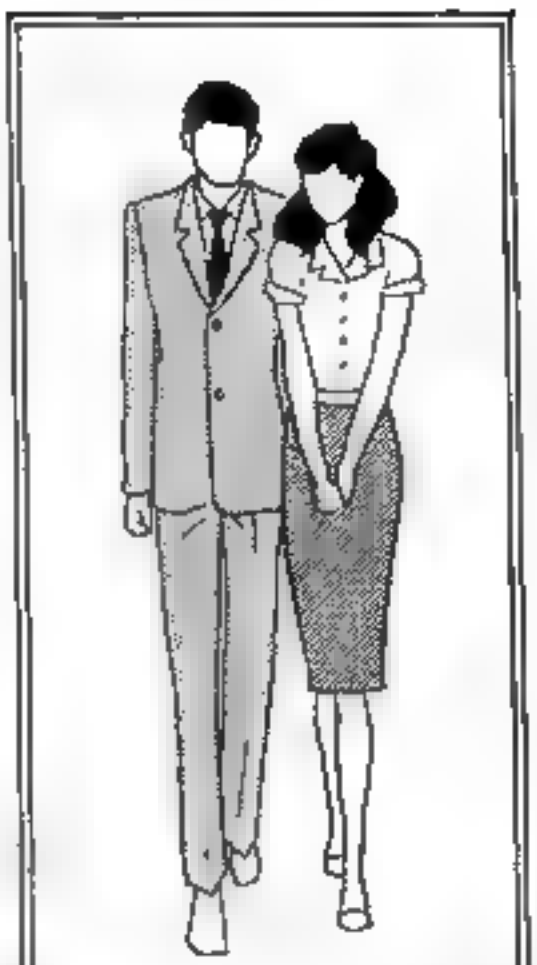
I NEVER HAD A PROPER EDUCATION.

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, MY FAMILY WAS VERY POOR,

EVEN THOUGH HIS PARENTS WOULD OBJECT IF THEY FOUND OUT, HE TOLD ME THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER,

AND THAT HE WANTED TO BE WITH ME.

BUT HE FORGAVE ME.

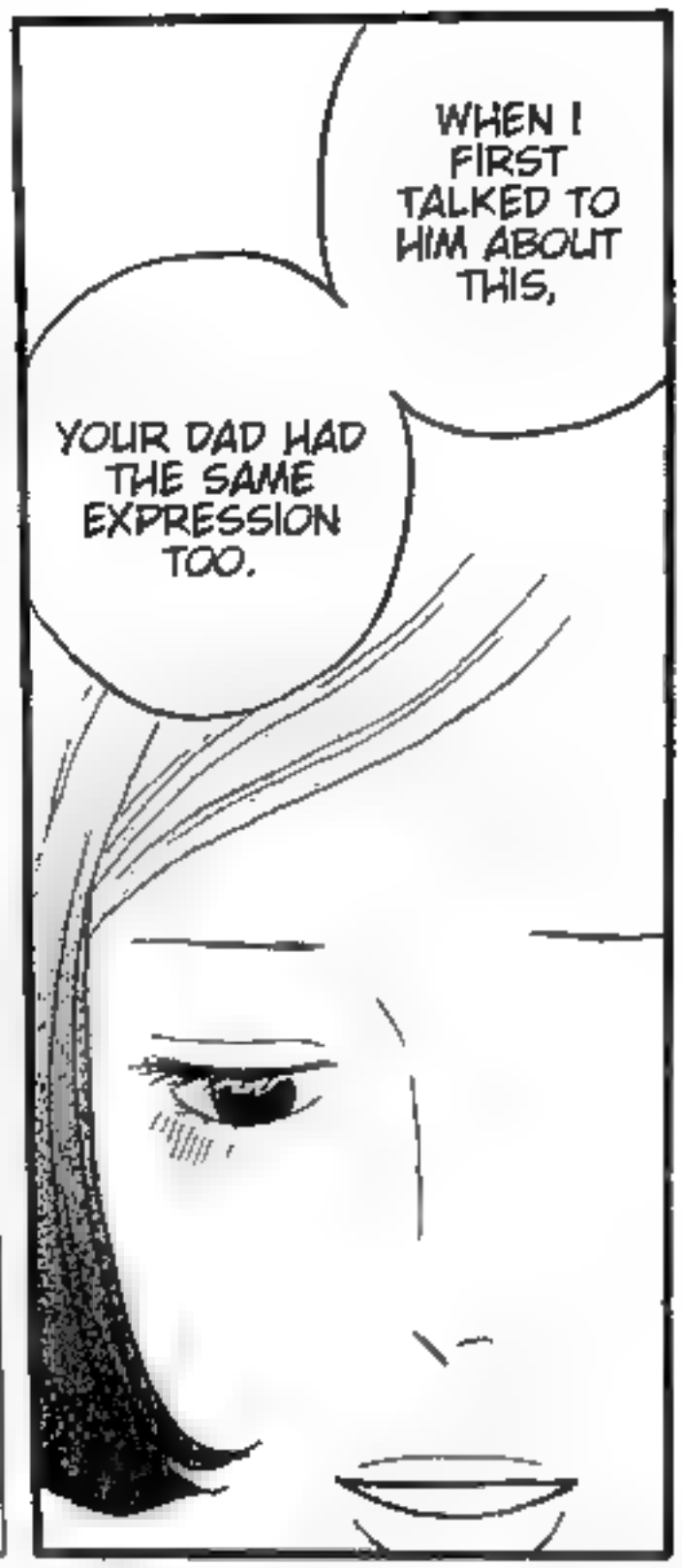


I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WOULD HATE ME BECAUSE OF MY UPBRINGING,

SO I KEPT IT A SECRET.

WHEN I FIRST TALKED TO HIM ABOUT THIS,

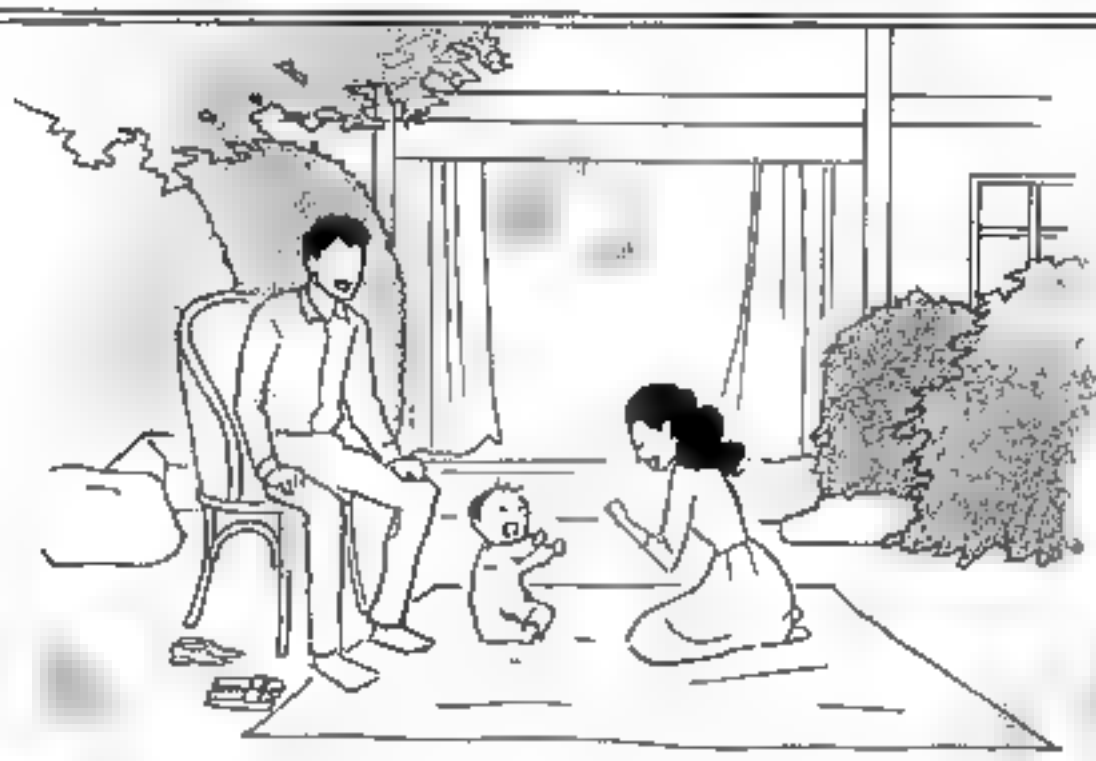
YOUR DAD HAD THE SAME EXPRESSION TOO.



AND I GAVE BIRTH TO KAORU.

WE GOT MARRIED.

AND THE THREE OF US LIVED TOGETHER IN HAPPINESS.



DAD RENTED A HOUSE NEAR HIS FAMILY HOME,

SHE WILL BRING SHAME ON THE NAME OF THE NISHIMI FAMILY.

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO HAVE A WOMAN LIKE THAT AROUND!?

AND THAT WAS HOW I...

BUT ONE DAY,

THE TRUTH ABOUT MY BACKGROUND WAS SPREAD BY A MAID FROM OUR HOUSE.

WHERE I BELONGED.

LOST THE ONLY PLACE,

I KEPT TELLING MYSELF THAT THINGS WOULD BE FINE.

AND AS I SANG YOU LULLABIES,

I WAS ALWAYS ALONE WITH KAORU,

IN THAT HOUSE,

AT THAT TIME, DAD HAD JUST STARTED WORKING ON THE SHIP,

SO HE WAS AWAY MOST OF THE TIME.

SAYOKO-SAN, YOU ARE NOT OBLIGED TO REMAIN IN THIS FAMILY.

WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF KAORU.

THAT WOMAN MARRIED INTO OUR FAMILY BECAUSE SHE WANTS A SHARE OF THE INHERITANCE!

HOW FRIGHTENING.

WAS INCREASING.

BUT THE PRESSURE,

DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.

JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A SON!

THIS IS TOO MUCH, MOTHER!

ARE YOU DOING THIS BECAUSE I AM THE DAUGHTER OF A POOR FAMILY?

THAT'S JUST UNREASON-ABLE...!

BUT... IT WASN'T MY FAULT.

YOU HAVE TO BEAR WITH IT, SAYOKO.

WHY DID YOU ARGUE WITH HER?

I TRIED TALKING TO DAD WHEN HE RETURNED, BUT...

AND THEN,

YOU SHOULD ...

FIX THAT SELF-CENTERED PERSONALITY OF YOURS.

IT'S OUR FAULT FOR HIDING IT.

OUR RELATIONSHIP DRIFTED FURTHER APART.

LIKE THE PHYSICAL DISTANCE BETWEEN US,

AND AT LAST, I COULD TAKE IT NO LONGER.

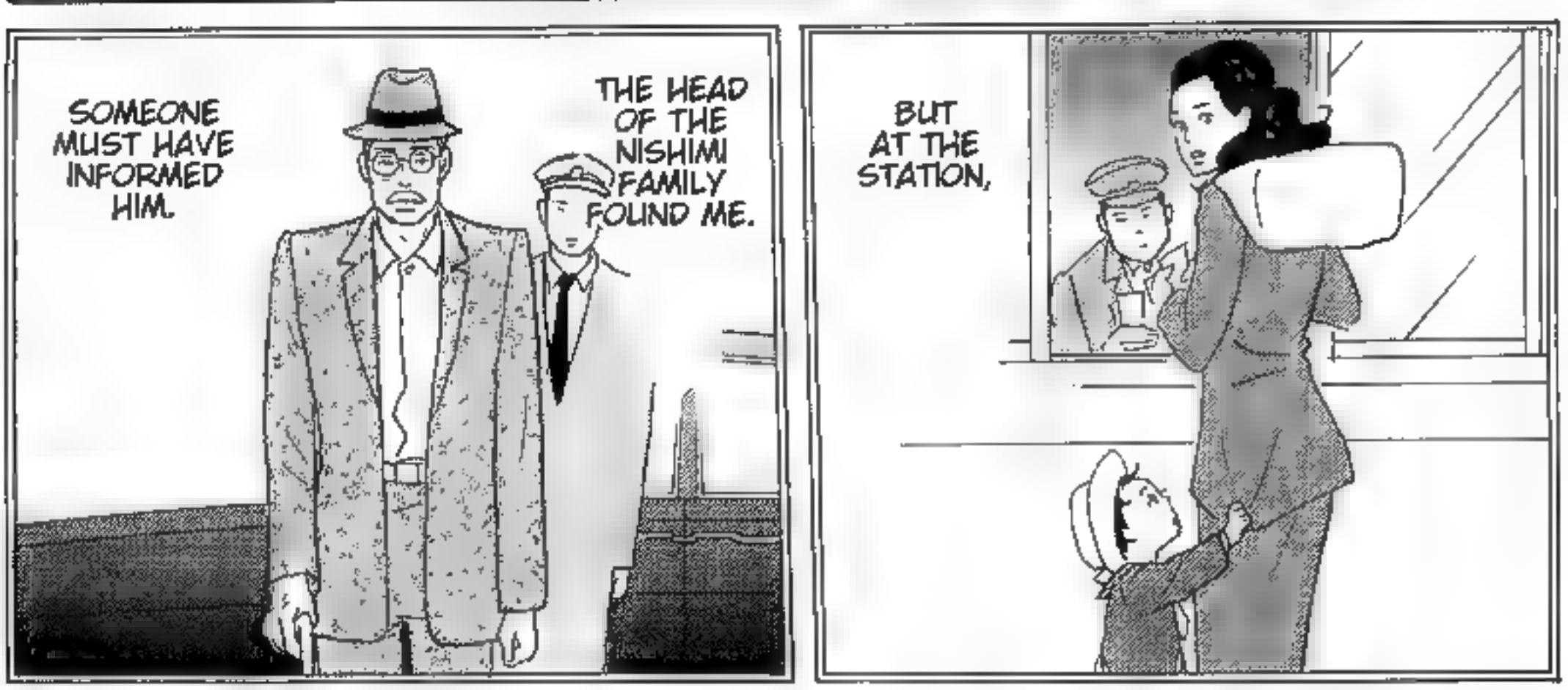
THOSE BITTER DAYS CONTINUED,

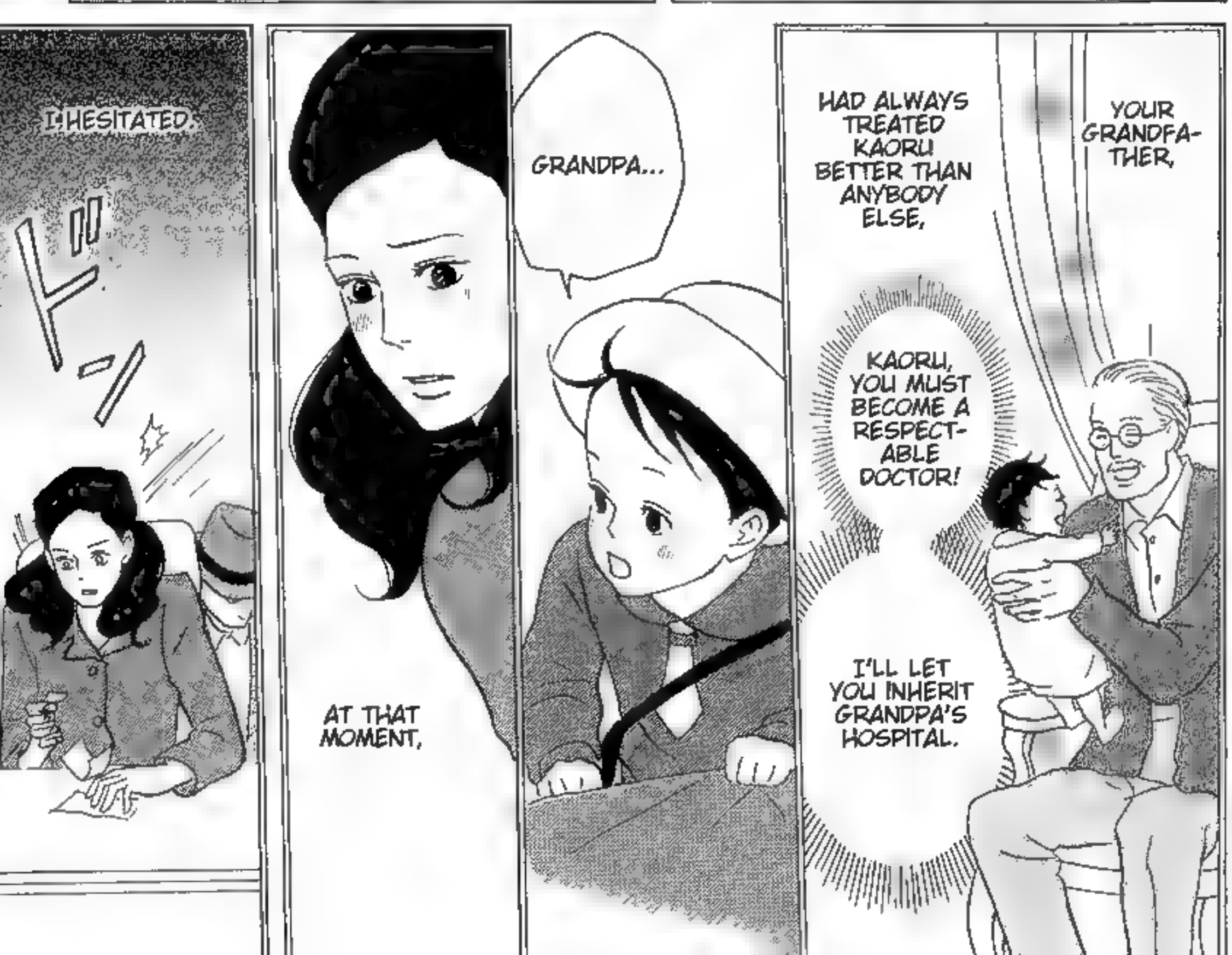
WITH NO ONE TO TURN TO,

TAKING KAORU WITH ME.

SO I RAN AWAY FROM HOME,

坂道のアポロン④


SOMEONE MUST HAVE INFORMED HIM.
THE HEAD OF THE NISHIMI FAMILY FOUND ME.
BUT AT THE STATION,


I HESITATED.
GRANDPA...
AT THAT MOMENT,
HAD ALWAYS TREATED KAORU BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE,
YOUR GRANDFA-THER,
KAORU, YOU MUST BECOME A RESPECT-ABLE DOCTOR!
I'LL LET YOU INHERIT GRANDPA'S HOSPITAL.

ザザザザ・

KAORU...!

KA.

!!

NOT EVEN PAYING HEED TO MY MUDDIED SHOES.

I CHASED AFTER THE CAR AS FAST AS I COULD,

BUT WHEN I LOOKED AT THE SPLENDID MANSION BEFORE ME,

AND FINALLY, I REACHED THE GATES OF THE MAIN HOUSE.

THOSE THOUGHTS FILLED MY HEAD.

WHEN ALL I CAN DO IS FIELD LABOR?

JUST WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM,

EVEN IF I HAD BROUGHT KAORU ALONG WITH ME,

I COULDN'T EVEN THINK OF APPROACHING YOU...

AFTER THAT,

SOMEONE I TREASURE DEEPLY, ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE.

KAORU IS

...THAT IS WHY.

KAORU'S HAPPINESS IS...

MY PRIORITY.

SO...

OH,

THE RAIN HAS STOPPED,

SO I'M GOING TO TAKE A WALK AROUND GINZA.

SEN?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HOW IS SCHOOL?

DO YOU HAVE A GIRL YOU LIKE, OR SOMETHING?

!

YOU HAVE SUCH A CARING FRIEND!

ARE YOU HAVING FUN EVERY DAY?

MAYBE HE FEELS AWKWARD STAYING HERE...

...AH,

WHY THE GLOOMY FACE?

OH?

...

...

MOM, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW...

MO,

LET ME GUESS, YOU WERE DUMPED?

HEH!

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW,

THE KID WHO'S ALWAYS BEEN COOING AND SAYING "MAMA",

EVEN IF YOU SAY SO,

BULLSEYE? HAHA HA!

WHA ...

IT'S NOT FUNNY!

IT'S JUST TOO FUNNY!

GOT HIS HEART BROKEN!

HEH

HAHA!

YOU'RE ENJOYING YOUR YOUTH, AREN'T YOU!

HAHA!

AHAHAHA!

AHAHAHA!

STOP IT MOM, MY STOMACH HURTS!

HAHA,

AHAHAHA!!

SO WHAT IF YOU WERE DUMPED!

AHAHAHA!

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!

I CAN'T STOP.

THAT'S STRANGE ...

I WAS DUMPED!

I FELT A SENSE OF RELIEF.

THE MOMENT I STARTED LAUGHING,

STOP IT, MOM! IF YOU LAUGH,

YOU'LL JUST TRIGGER IT AGAIN...

fufu!

?

AHAHA!

I CAN'T!!

ahahaha!!

I FORGOT THAT I DIDNT HAVE ANY MONEY.

YES?

CAN YOU LEND ME SOME?

YOU PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN AFFORD A SOUVENIR WITH WHAT YOU HAVE.

OH YEAH ...

HEHE!

let's see - my wallet...

BON.

I COULD FEEL,

MY HEAD GOING BLANK.

...HM?

IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE.

坂道のアポロン④

SORRY, SEN, BUT COULD YOU TAKE THIS?

SOME-THING?

I'LL RUN AND GET IT.

I JUST RE-MEMBERED, THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO BUY!

AH...!

WE NEED TO HEAD TO THE STATION SOON...

ALREADY?! I HAVEN'T BOUGHT ANY SOUVENIRS YET!

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

JUST GO ON AHEAD FIRST!

SHALL WE WAIT FOR HIM?

OR SHALL WE GO...

HE'S ALWAYS ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIMSELF!

HUH?

I JUST FELT RELIEVED...

WHAT'S WRONG?

...!

AH...

AHA, THIS ISN'T ...

I'M RELIEVED...

HE'S HEALTHY,

AND HAS GROWN INTO A FINE YOUNG MAN.

I TOLD MYSELF, THAT I MUSN'T CRY IN FRONT OF HIM...

SO I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK ALL ALONG...

MY SON MAY HAVE HIS SHORT-COMINGS,

THAT IS

MY ONLY WISH...

BUT PLEASE,

DON'T WORRY.

...

TAKE CARE OF HIM.

FRIENDSHIPS ARE FOR LIFE.

AND I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT

I'LL BE HIS FRIEND FOREVER.

I DID TELL YOU TO GO ON AHEAD!

WHAT!? AFTER SELFISHLY RUNNING OFF TO DO YOUR OWN SHOPPING!

WHAT DID YOU BUY? SHOW ME!

NO WAY!

what?!

DID I KEEP YOU WAITING?

SORRY!

THERE'S NO TIME, SO LET'S HURRY!

...AH

WE MADE IT...

ON TIME...

WHEW...

IT'S A JAZZ RECORD.

EH...? FOR ME?

MY... BUT AREN'T THESE EXPENSIVE ...?

MOM,

THIS IS... FOR YOU.

I'LL COME BACK AGAIN TO VISIT MOM.

CHRIS CONNOR Sings Lullaby of Birdland

YOU SHOULD TRY SINGING ALONG TO IT!

THE FIRST SONG IS TITLED "LULLABY OF BIRDLAND"

AND ISN'T THIS IN ENGLISH? I DON'T KNOW THE LANGUAGE...

...B, BUT, MY VOICE IS RASPY AND NOTHING LIKE WHAT IT WAS WHEN I WAS YOUNGER...

IT'S FINE! YOU JUST HAVE TO MIMIC WHAT YOU HEAR.

I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MY ENGLISH, SO I'LL TRANSLATE IT FOR YOU THE NEXT TIME I COME!

COULD YOU PRACTISE THAT?

SO UNTIL THEN,

THAT'S RIGHT! I THINK MOM'S VOICE IS A PERFECT FIT FOR JAZZ!
JAZZ IS BETTER SUNG BY WOMEN WITH HUSKY VOICES!
like sarah and ella
AND,
SO DO PRACTICE SINGING IT, MOM!
I'LL DEFINITELY COME VISIT AGAIN!
WE'LL BE OFF!
...AH,
KAORU...

MOM'S LIPS

FORMED THE WORDS "I'M SORRY".

I WONDER IF SHE SAW.

BITING BACK MY TEARS, I SHOOK MY HEAD.

THERE WE GO ...

I'M HOME!

RECORD SHOP MUKAE JAZZ

URGH... IT WAS TOUGH, HAVING TO CARRY TWO BOTTLES!

...

坂道のアポロン④

…

ふき ふき

the hop

OH, RIKKO!

WHERE DID YOU GO?!

♪

EH?

I'M HOME ...?

...

let's continue!

from which part?

WELCOME BACK, RICCHAN.

SCENE 17
シーン

二年
組

KAORU-
SAN.

...YEAH.

I'M
GLAD...

WE'RE IN
THE SAME
CLASS
AGAIN.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND. I WONDER WHICH CLASS HE'S IN.

ANYWAY, WHERE IS HE?

IF THAT,

MAKES RICCHAN HAPPY,

I'M HAPPY TOO.

HEY! WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU LOOK CHEERFUL! DO YOU LIKE BEING IN THE BOYS' CLASS SO MUCH?

WHAT?

the return of sgt. demon

I'm going to take good care of you Kawabuchi.

I HEARD YOUR TEACHER IS THE ADVISOR OF THE JUDO CLUB, ONIGAWARA-SENSEI!

GREAT TEACHER ONIGAWARA

ARE YOU REALLY DEPRESSED BECAUSE OF THAT?

I GUESS THAT WILL FIX YOUR HABIT OF SKIPPING CLASSES, EH?

I'T'S NOT BECAUSE OF THAT.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.

THEY MAY BE A BUNCH OF DELINQUENTS, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS YOU ARE.

IT'S JUST THE BOYS' CLASS.

HE'S NOT USED TO IT.

BEING PUT IN A DIFFERENT CLASS FROM HIS FRIENDS.

IT'S SENTAROU'S FIRST TIME.

...

REALLY ...

JUST STAY STILL... I'LL GET IT.

THERE WAS A PETAL IN YOUR HAIR...

UM...

AH.

IT'S FINE! I'LL DO IT MYSELF.

...AH!

OH.
WE NEED TO GO TO THE CLASSROOM SOON.

NISHIMI-
KUUUUUN!

...EH?
DIDN'T WE JUST
HAVE THE
SELF-INTRODUC-
TIONS...?

AH...
I'M NOT
INTERESTED IN
THAT, SO
I WASN'T
LISTENING.

OH,
REALLY?

I'M SO GLAD
WE'RE IN THE
SAME CLASS
AGAIN!

I, I'M VERY SORRY!

YOU BOUGHT HIS TICKET, DIDN'T YOU?

HE TOLD ME TO KEEP IT A SECRET...

THAT TICKET FOR THE SLEEPER TRAIN!

T, THAT'S MEAN, NISHIMI-KUN...

I even told my best train joke-

AH.

THANK YOU, MARUO-KUN.

NO, WITH YOUR HELP, I HAD A VERY ENJOYABLE TRIP.

eh –

are there any volunteers?

eh~

IF THERE ARE NO CANDIDATES, YOU HAVE TO STAY HERE.

YOU MAY BE DISMISSED AFTER WE DECIDE ON THE CLASS REPRESENTATIVES.

坂道のアポロン④

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE WINDOWS ARE OPEN...

I WONDER WHY, BUT SUDDENLY,

BUT MY BACK

FEELS STRANGELY COLD.

AH- ITS FINALLY OVER.

WE SHOULD HAVE JUST DRAWN LOTS TO DECIDE.

YEAH!

AH, IT'S THAT CLASS FULL OF DELINQUENT BOYS.

I'M GLAD I'M NOT IN CLASS 10.

DID YOU HEAR? CLASS 10 UPSTAIRS IS A RIOT!

IT FELT LIKE A FIGHT WAS GOING TO BREAK OUT ANY MOMENT!

WHEN I WALKED PAST JUST NOW,

URK, SCARY!

THEY WERE ARGUING OVER A KEY OR SOMETHING

AH, KAWABUCHI ISN'T HERE.

HE LEFT WITH ISHIDA, FROM THE BOXING CLUB.

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.

YES ...

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING...

WE WERE RIGHT...

HEY,

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT, BOXING CLUB?

SEN!

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE STRONGER THAN THIS...

HEH!

I WAS GETTING RESTLESS, SO I NEEDED A BIT OF EXERCISE.

THANKS TO THEM, I FEEL BETTER NOW.

BON!

OH,

D,

DON'T YOU 'OH' ME!!

WHY DO YOU HAVE TO FIGHT ON THE VERY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!?

DON'T GET INTO UNNECESSARY FIGHTS!

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL BECOME THE LONER IN YOUR CLASS!

YOU'RE BEING NOISY.

LISTEN,

AH-

I HAVEN'T FOUGHT IN A WHILE, SO IT WAS FUN!

SEN!

...

WHAT DID YOU ...

ZIP

YOU'RE IN YOUR SECOND YEAR NOW, SO IT'S TIME TO LEARN SOME SOCIAL SENSE..

HA, ACTING ALL PROUD!

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF...

美術室

HANG ON...

WA, WAIT...

WAIT, SEN!

SEN...

...

AH...!

LOOK AT YOURSELF! IF YOU GO WITH THAT INJURED AND BLOODIED FACE...

WHAT?

DON'T GO.

YOU'RE GOING TO SCARE YURIKA-SAN!

GO AFTER YOU GET THOSE WOUNDS TREATED.

don't remember being beaten up though...

RICCHAN!

IS, IS IT REALLY THAT BAD...?

YEAH. IT'S LIKE SOMEONE COULD GET CURSED JUST FROM LOOKING AT YOU.

?

AND TREAT HIS WOUNDS, PLEASE?

...EH?

CAN YOU BRING THIS GUY TO THE INFIRMARY.

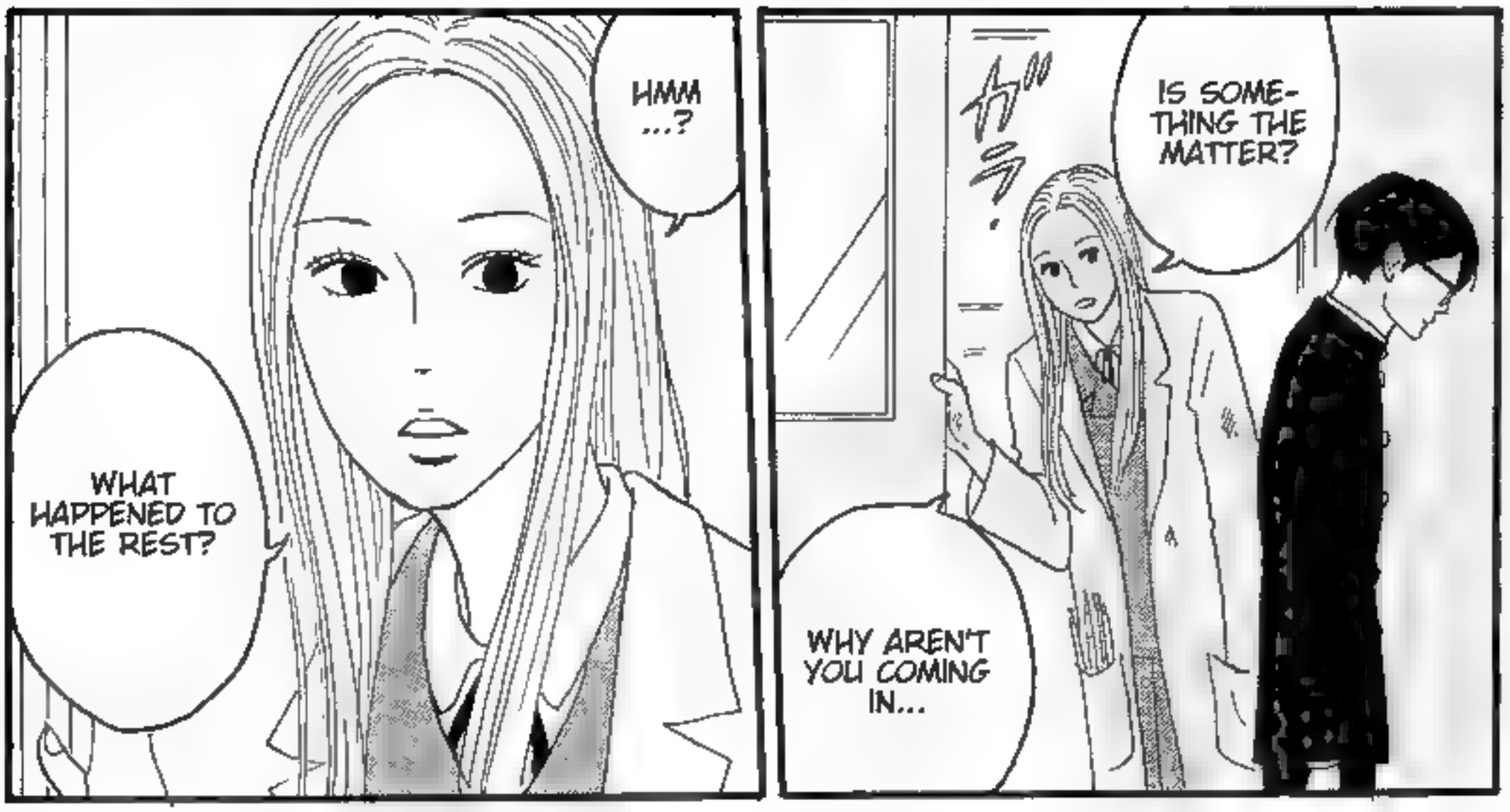
O, OKAY ...

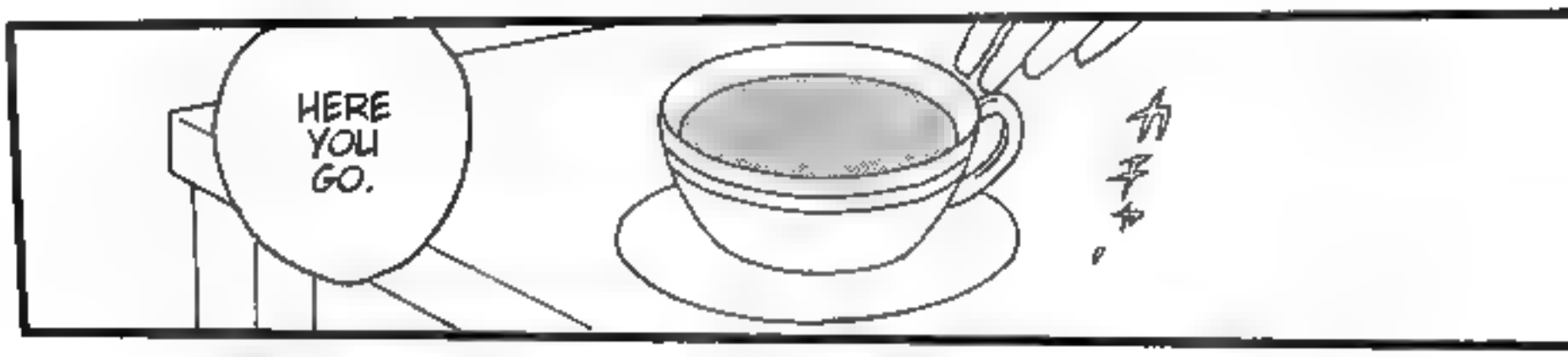
RICCHAN, I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU.

COME ON, GO!

MAYBE ALL YOU
NEED COULD
AWAIT.
I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE WHAT
THAT
BUT I BELIEVE
ALL GREAT LOVES
DO IT.
IT STILL HAPPENS
A LITTLE.

坂道のアポロン④


HMM ...?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST?
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER?
WHY AREN'T YOU COMING IN...


HERE YOU GO.

THIS PAINTING IS GOING TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE PUBLIC EXHIBITION ...
SO I'M TOUCHING IT UP.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME TEA TOO, YURIKA-SENPAI?
THANK YOU, MATSUOKA-KUN.
TH... THANKS. ..
I'M FINE.

SENTAROU-KUN WAS THE MODEL.

IT'S FINE.

I'M SORRY... I'M NOT GOOD AT UNDER-STANDING ART...

UM ...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORCE YOURSELF TO COMMENT ON IT.

uh

this is

坂道のアポロン④

SINCE PAINTING AND JAZZ ARE SAID TO HAVE MANY SIMILARITIES.

ESPE-CIALLY,

PAINTINGS ARE CREATED ON A SPACE KNOWN AS THE CANVAS,

IT'S STRANGE FOR YOU TO SAY THAT YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ART,

AND,

SINCE MUSIC IS ALSO A FORM OF ART.

AND ETCHING IT ON THE CANVAS.

IT'S JUST LIKE TAKING A PART OF YOURSELF,

AND JAZZ IS PERFORMED WITHIN THE CANVAS OF TIME.

WHEN I VISITED THE BASEMENT STUDIO,

THAT WAS WHAT JUNICHI-SAN TOLD ME.

THAT WAS JUST SOME-THING I'VE HEARD.

...HEHE, KIDDING.

郵便

(FROM YURIKA)

IT WAS VERY PROFOUND,

AND THERE IS SO MUCH MORE I WANT TO TALK TO HIM ABOUT...

BUT THE NEXT TIME WE CAN MEET,

IS PROBABLY THIS COMING SUMMER.

UM, I ...

.....

OH,

THAT'S A PITY ...

WENT TO TOKYO DURING SPRING BREAK,

AND WHEN I VISITED JUN-NII'S DORM,

HE WASN'T THERE...

HE HASN'T BEEN BACK FOR A LONG TIME,

AND THERE WERE MANY LETTERS STUFFED IN HIS DOOR...

坂道のアポロン④

I SEE.
...
SOMEONE AT THE DORM SAID HE WAS TAKING PART IN SOME MOTION...
OR THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN STAYING OVER AT SOMEONE'S PLACE...
APPARENTLY ...
EVEN WHEN HE MIGHT HAVE...
RECEIVED AN IMPORTANT LETTER.
I WONDER WHERE...
HE IS.
...

OW...!

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF IT GETS INFECTED?

WE NEED TO DISINFECT IT!

COME ON, CLOSE YOUR EYES!

ARE WE DONE YET?

DON'T MOVE!

TINY WOUNDS LIKE THIS WILL HEAL WITH SOME SPIT.

FUU

'KAY.

TO TREAT YOUR INJURIES...

SINCE WE CAME TO THE INFIRMARY TOGETHER,

IT, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

.....

YEAH ...

BUT AFTER YOU GOT INTO HIGH SCHOOL,

I REMEMBER THOSE FREQUENT TRIPS TO THE INFIRMARY.

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, YOU GOT INTO FIGHTS EVERY OTHER DAY!

I'll let you handle this, mukae-san!

Kawabuchi-kun, another fight again?

yes...

YOU'RE GETTING INTO FEWER FIGHTS NOW, AREN'T YOU...

…

Y,

YES?

I WONDER IF...

NURSE MATSUGASHITA IS DOING WELL!

IT'S ONLY BEEN A YEAR, YET IT FEELS NOSTALGIC...

NOPE...

A LOT,

CAN HAPPEN IN A YEAR.

RIKKO,

IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'VE STAYED IN THE SAME CLASS AS BON.

FROM NOW ON,

INSTEAD OF ME, YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT HIM TOO.

FOR THE TEA...

THANKS,

IS MY FACE ALL RIGHT NOW?

YEAH, YOU'RE LOOKING HANDSOME.

EH? WHERE'S RICCHAN?

AH...

I WAS WORRIED THAT YOU'D LEFT!

GOOD THING YOU'RE STILL HERE...!

SHE SAID SHE HAD SOME-THING TO DO, SO SHE LEFT.

BON!!

I'LL BE GOING NOW...

坂道のアポロン④

FINALLY, TO ESCAPE FROM APOLLO, SHE RESORTED TO TRANSFORMING INTO A LAUREL TREE...

THE GOD, APOLLO, HAD FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE DAUGHTER OF THE RIVER, DAPHNE, BUT...

EVEN WHEN APOLLO TRIED TO CHASE HER, DAPHNE WOULD RUN AWAY FROM HIM.

...YES.

DO YOU KNOW THE STORY OF APOLLO AND DAPHNE FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY?

THAT IS A TEAR OF FORSAKEN LOVE.

IT'S THE SADDEST ONE-SIDED LOVE STORY OF ALL TIME!!

OF COURSE HE WOULD CRY!

AND IN HIS SADNESS, HE WOULD MAKE WREATHS OUT OF LAUREL!

IT'S TRUE THAT THE STORY IS THE MOTIF OF THE PAINTING,

THAT'S NOT IT.

BUT THIS... WAS NOT DONE DELIBER-ATELY.

I DIDN'T NOTICE IT BEFORE, BUT SOME OIL MUST HAVE FALLEN FROM MY BRUSH.

WHO IS THIS?

RIGHT?

ISN'T THAT HOW THE STORY GOES, YURIKA-SENPAI?

KAWABUCHI SENTAROU-KUN,

WE'RE BOTH IN CLASS 10!

OH, YOU FLATTER ME!

I wouldn't say "hope"!

HE'S THE HOPE OF OUR ART CLUB.

AH, THIS IS THE SECOND-YEAR, MATSUOKA-KUN.

AND YOU LOOK LIKE A NICE PERSON TO ME,

BUT SINCE I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM YURIKA-SENPAI,

EVERYONE SEEMS AFRAID OF YOU,

I'M RE-LIEVED!

SEN-TAROU-KUN?

WAS THERE A GUY LIKE THAT IN OUR YEAR ...?

BON...

I DON'T KNOW ...

I'M GETTING CHILLS...

I HOPE WE GET ALONG!

SHALL WE GO FOR A WALK IN TOWN?

I WANT TO PROPERLY THANK YOU FOR BEING MY MODEL.

WHEN YOU'RE FREE,

LET'S GO LOOK FOR, A PRESENT SENTAROU-KUN WOULD LIKE.

WAIT UP ...

SEN...

CALM DOWN!

AH

!!

THAT HE SHOULDN'T GO

I REALLY THINK

HA!

HE MUSN'T. SHE'S...

CALM DOWN?!

HE MUSN'T!

DON'T ASK FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE, BON!

BRINGING UP THAT APOLLO NONSENSE!

IDIOT!

A LAUREL WREATH!

NEVER LOOK GOOD WITH

THIS GUY WILL

SCENE 18

MLIKAE-SAN.

-SAN...

YOU'RE ON THE WRONG PAGE.

PLEASE READ THE LAST PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 28.

Y,

YES...

STAYING BEHIND,

RICCHAN?

wait for me!

kyahaha!

AH, YES.

I FORGOT TO DO MY MATH HOMEWORK...

THAT'S RARE.

RICCHAN IS ALWAYS CAREFUL, SO IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO FORGET.

AND THE DAY BEFORE, I FORGOT MY JERSEY...
YESTERDAY I FORGOT TO BRING MY HISTORY TEXTBOOK,

EHEHE!
I'M MORE CARELESS THAN CAREFUL.

OH!
I'VE BEEN OUT OF IT BECAUSE IT'S SPRING...

.....

I NEED TO TALK TO Y...
BON!!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM...

I'LL GO TO PRACTICE FIRST!

IT'S NOTHING!

AH...

ABOUT?

HE'S BEING STRANGE ...

ガ
ガ
ギュッ
ゴレ
OH...
THIS SONG ...
I REALLY LIKE THIS SONG...
IT'S FROM "THE SOUND OF MUSIC" ...
sounds like a horn...
YEAH.

HEHE.

I REALLY WANTED TO SEE IT,

IT DOES SEEM LIKE A MOVIE RICCHAN WOULD LIKE.

TOLD YOU I'M CARE-LESS.

BUT I DIDN'T MANAGE TO CATCH IT AT THE CINEMAS...

...NOPE

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE MOVIE.

HOW COULD I HAVE MISSED IT...

I'M SURE IT WAS A GOOD MOVIE.

...THE SONGS FROM THAT MOVIE ARE BEAUTIFUL.

♪

I'M SUCH A FOOL.

MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE I THOUGHT I COULD SEE IT ANY TIME I WANTED,

♩

♫

THIS SONG,
WHAT WAS THIS... SOMETHING "THINGS",
BY COLTRANE ...
oh, i made a mistake
WAS IN THE MOVIE TOO.
My フェイバリット Favorite シングス Things
YEAH, THAT'S THE ONE!
YOU SWITCHED TO A DIFFERENT SONG AGAIN!
AH!

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME NOW...

I'VE GOT TO STOP WORRY-ING.

NO, THAT'S TOO AWKWARD ...

it's not a confession this time-

eh- again?

"I HOPE THIS SONG WILL CHEER YOU UP"

too awkward-

I WANTED TO DISCUSS WITH BON.

THERE WAS SOME-THING...

OH, YEAH,

...SO, WHY WERE YOU SO FLUSTERED JUST NOW?

WHY DO YOU ASK?

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH RIKKO.

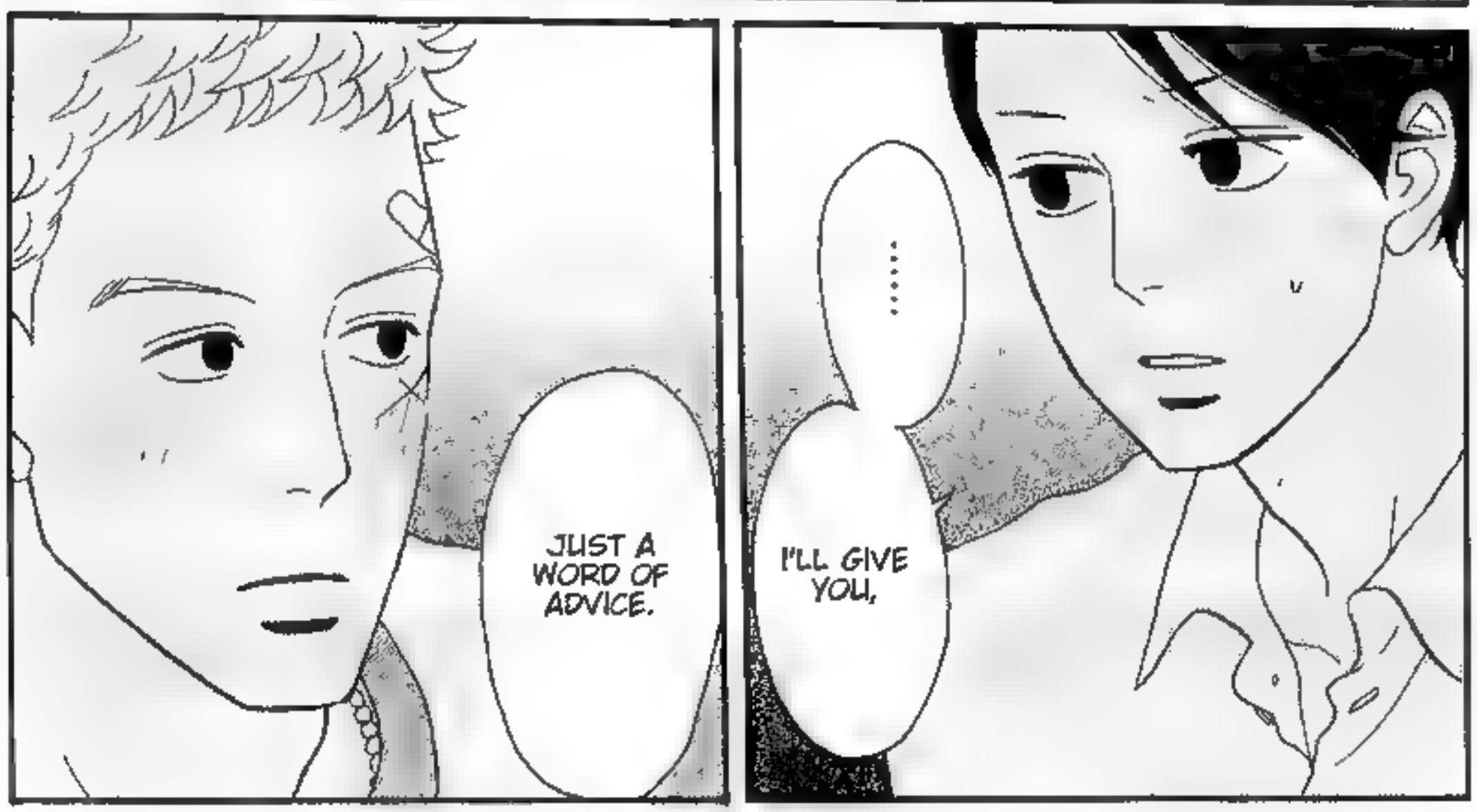
SEN... DID YOU SAY SOMETHING TO RICCHAN...?

...AH

HUH?

IT'S JUST ...
DIFFICULT TO, UH...
!
ASK FOR DATING ADVICE,
IN FRONT OF A CHILDHOOD FRIEND...

I WAS GOING TO ASK BON ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD DO.
YE,
YEAH ...
BY DATE, YOU MEAN...
THE ONE... WITH YURIKA!?


JUST A WORD OF ADVICE.
I'LL GIVE YOU,

DON'T GO.

IF YOU GO, YOU'LL JUST GET HURT.

HUH!?

WHAT'S WITH THAT?

...THAT'S ALL.

BY THAT?

...WHAT DO YOU MEAN,

I...

I KNOW WHAT TO DO IN SITUATIONS LIKE THAT...

SO YOU'LL DEFINITELY MESS UP.

YOU'LL PROBABLY BE TOO NERVOUS IF YOU'RE ALONE WITH HER.

D,

DON'T UNDERES-TIMATE ME!

IT'S STILL TOO EARLY FOR YOU.

I MEAN...

I CAN HANDLE A DATE, NO PROBLEM!

OH, REALLY !?

SHUT UP!

AREN'T YOU THE ONE COMING TO ME FOR ADVICE?

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!

HA!

T...T P O?

What's that?

TIME, PLACE AND OCCASION!

THESE THREE THINGS ARE THE BASICS OF A GOOD DATE!

ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU CAN CONSIDER THE TPO AND ACT APPROPRIATELY WHEN YOU'RE WITH HER?

DON'T GO.

IT'S FOR YOUR SAKE.

I BET YOU DON'T.

...DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

GETTING SO ANXIOUS FOR?

WHAT AM I

IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.

EVEN IF HE WERE TO GET HURT,

INTO THE RELATIONSHIPS OF OTHERS.

I SHOULDN'T BE POKING MY NOSE,

IF ONLY EVERY-ONE WOULD

AH ...

WHAT A PAIN.

PRY INTO YURIKA-SAN'S MATTERS?

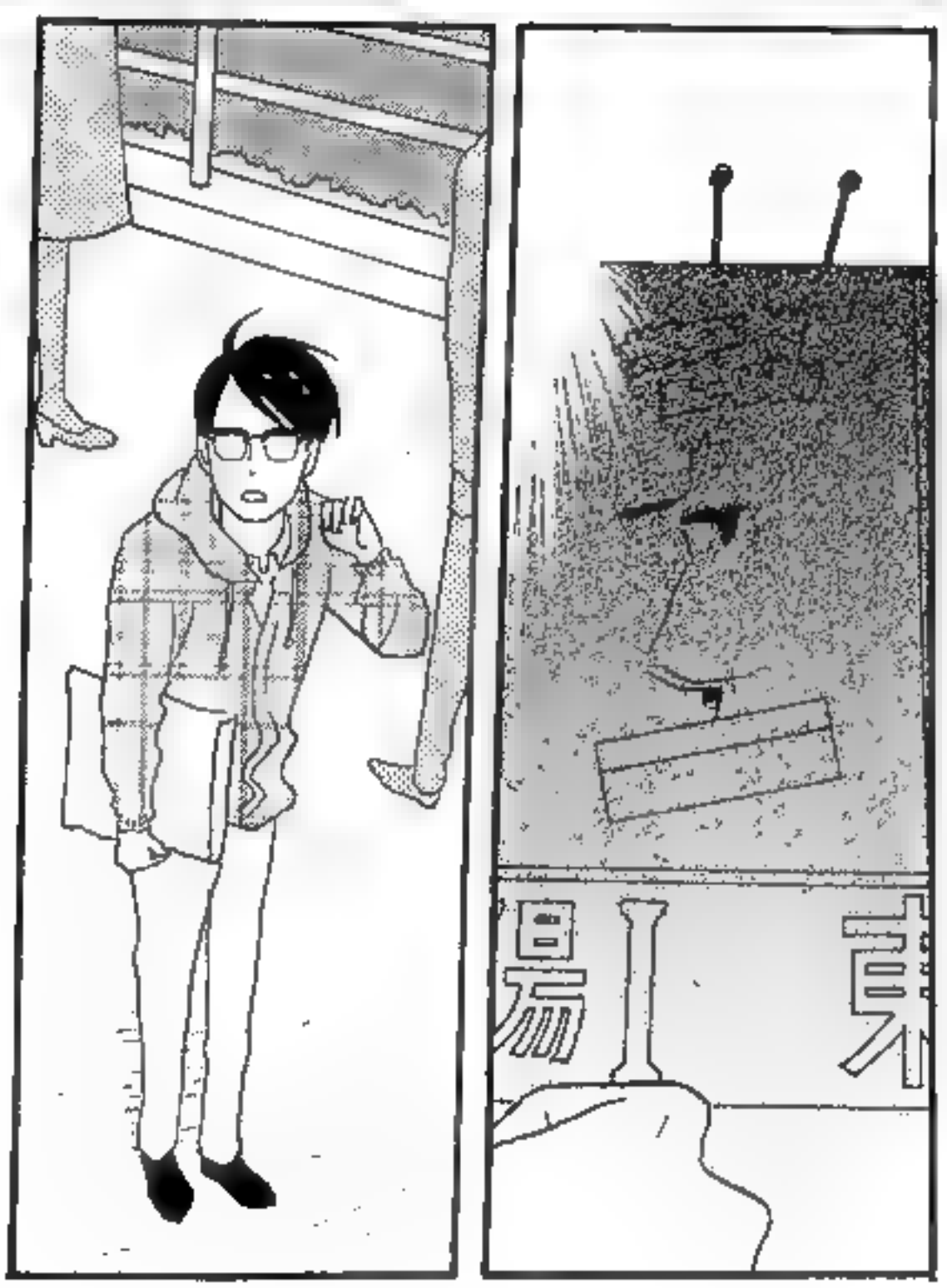
DID I

SIGH

WHY...

FALLING IN LOVE.

JUST STOP



...KAORU-SAN?

RICCHAN!

PLEASE EXCUSE RICCHAN FOR A MOMENT!

UNCLE!

IS YOUR DAD IN?

EH...? WHA-

Y, YES...

CAN YOU COME WITH ME...?

THERE IS SOME-THING I WANT TO SHOW YOU!

WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK!!

WHAT!?

坂道のアポロン④

KAORU-SAN ...
WAIT ...
カラ
KAORU-SAN, WAIT...
KÄ,
コロ
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
LOOK AT THIS, RICCHAN!
THIS ...

サウンド・オブ・ミュージック
the sound of music
大人気ミュージカル映画
super popular musical movie
☆市内では当館のみ！
特別再上映
special encore screening

...SORRY,

はぜ

THERE'S AN ENCORE SCREENING ...

TOMOR-ROW...

...BUT WHEN I SAW THIS,

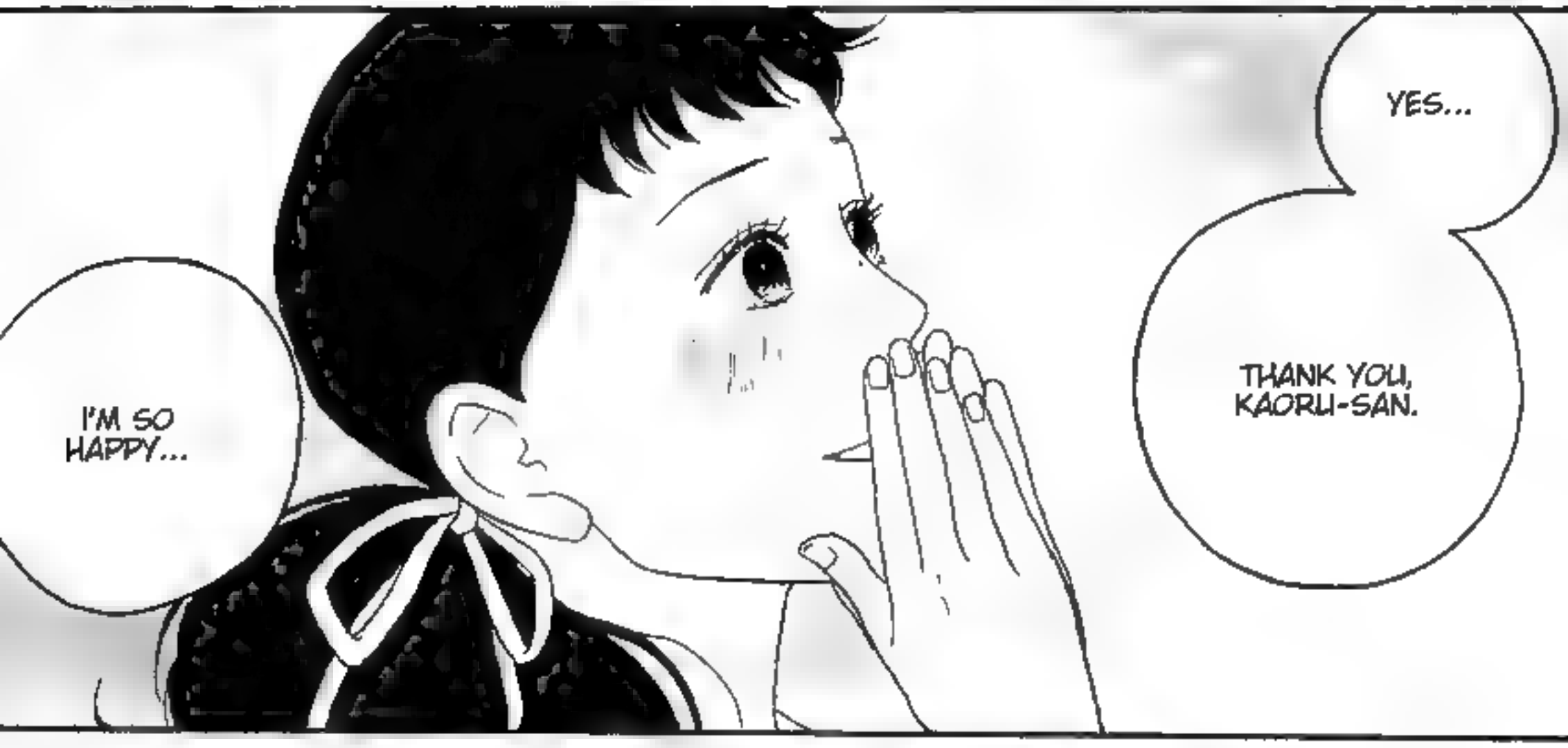
I IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT OF RICCHAN,

AND I REALLY WANTED TO SHOW IT TO YOU, AS SOON AS I CAN.

FOR DRAGGING YOU OUT AT SUCH SHORT NOTICE.

坂道のアポロン④

東陽
シネマ
上映中


I'M SO HAPPY...
YES...
THANK YOU, KAORU-SAN.

TO WATCH IT WITH YOU...
UM, SO...
YOU SHOULD... INVITE THE PERSON YOU LIKE,

BE GOING-

.....

...WELL,

I'LL

.....?

KAORU-SAN?

ふぁ

RIC-CHAN,

THERE'S A DELICIOUS SMELL COMING FROM OVER THERE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER!

LET'S BUY SOME FOR YOUR DAD.

OH, LOOK, THERE'S A QUEUE ALREADY.

IT SMELLS LIKE IMAGAWA-YAKI

AH, THAT'S A POPULAR KAITEN-YAKI SHOP...

HM? IT'S NOT IMAGA-WA -YAKI?

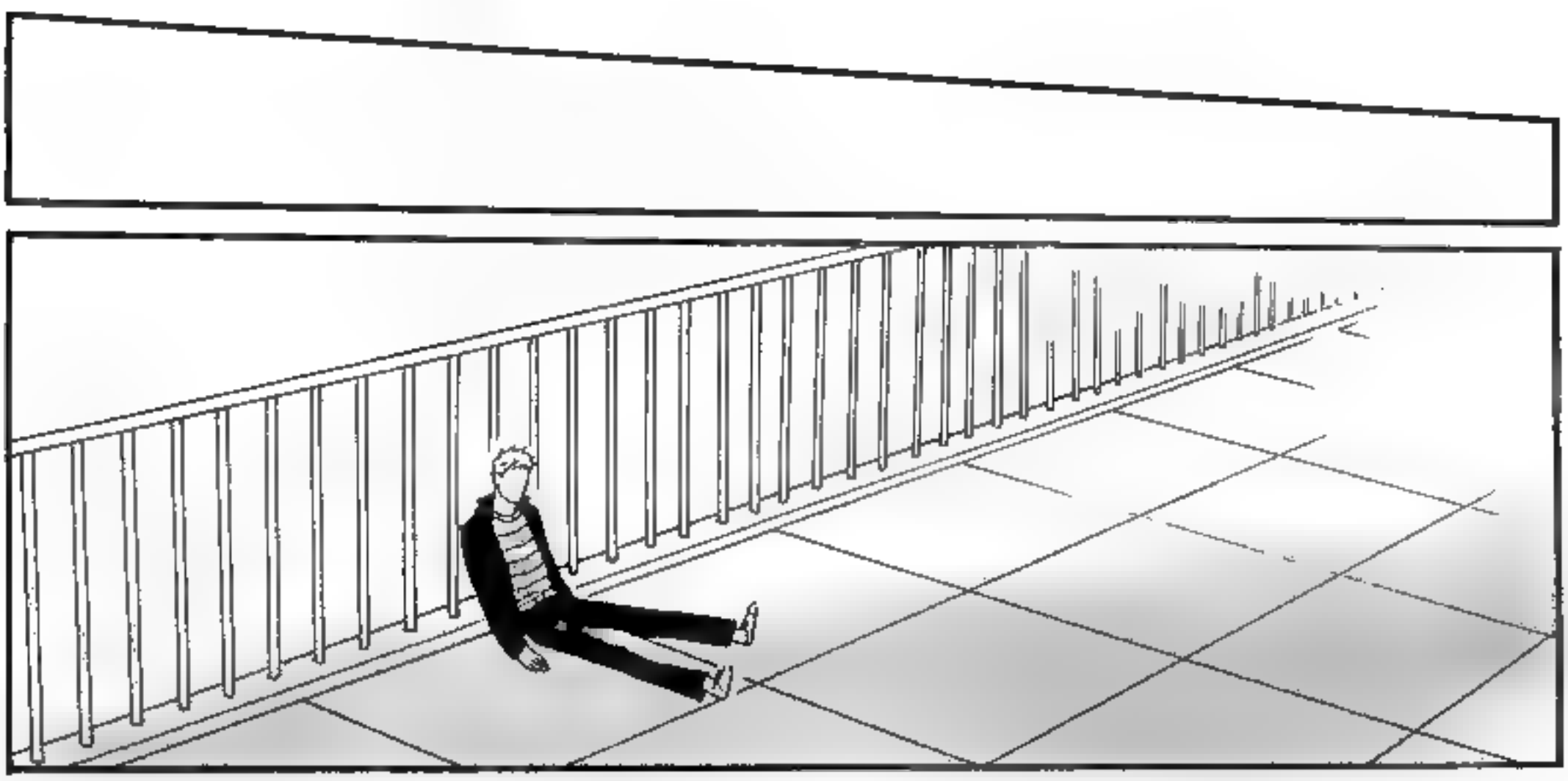
(NOTE: IMAGAWA-YAKI AND KAITEN-YAKI BOTH REFER TO THE SAME THING. IT IS A GRILLED ROUND PANCAKE STUFFED WITH BEAN PASTE, AND IT'S NAME VARIES FROM PLACE TO PLACE)

IGNORING MY ADVICE!

I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM, NOW!

IDIOT!

THAT



坂道のアポロン④

SENTAROU-KUN

TELL ME IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU WANT.

HOW ABOUT THIS, SENTAROU-KUN?

I...

I DON'T SMOKE.

WE HAVE A LIGHTER IN THE SAME DESIGN...

I WONDER WHAT THEIR RELATION-SHIP IS

THIS IS AN IMPORTED CIGARETTE CASE.

HOW ABOUT THIS? IT'S BEAUTIFUL.

I CAN'T ACCEPT SOMETHING THIS EXPENSIVE ...

UH, NO,

OH?

WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANYTHING YET...

IT'S ALREADY THE FOURTH SHOP!

UM, YURIKA-SAN, I THINK,

SORRY ABOUT THAT.

THAT'S TRUE...

IT'S STILL A LITTLE TOO EARLY FOR SENTAROU-KUN

UH...

I DON'T USUALLY BUY THINGS FOR MYSELF, EITHER.

YOU SPEND YOUR ALLOWANCE ON THINGS LIKE CLOTHES AND RECORDS, DON'T YOU?

JUST CHOOSE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

AH, DON'T WORRY.

YOU BUYING ME A PRESENT ...

I FEEL SORRY ABOUT ...

IS A HAND-ME-DOWN FROM JUN-NII...

EVEN THIS COAT,

坂道のアポロン④

...OH, IS THAT SO?

ALL OUR CONVER-SATIONS WERE ONLY ABOUT JUN-NII.

AND THEN,

.....

.....

WHAT IS THIS FEELING OF EMPTINESS...

HEY.

there was a rumor that he fought 10 guys at once

what! do tell me all about it!

AND SHE SEEMED TO ENJOY TALKING ABOUT HIM...

HE WAS BEYOND COOL.

NOT ONLY WAS HE A GOOD FIGHTER, HE WAS SMART, TOO!

WHEN JUN-NII WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL,

bet words or fists.

bring it on

katsuragi senpai!!!

...ALSO, HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD TIME?

THAT DOESN'T MATTER.

OF COURSE...

LIAR.

REFLECTING ON YOUR DATE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE, SEN?

...YEAH

A DATE'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL FOR YOU, ANYWAY.

OH, THAT'S FOR SURE.

Y, YEAH ...

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO.

.....

IT PROBABLY DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED, DID IT?

WHA...!

I CAN IMAGINE IT.

DON'T GO NEAR HER ANY MORE.

I'M TELLING YOU,

SEN...

WHY...

WHAT MADE YOU SAY THAT?

...HUH?

A GIRL OF FINE UPBRINGING LIKE THAT,

AND AN ILL-MANNERED GUY LIKE YOU,

WILL NEVER BE A GOOD MATCH.

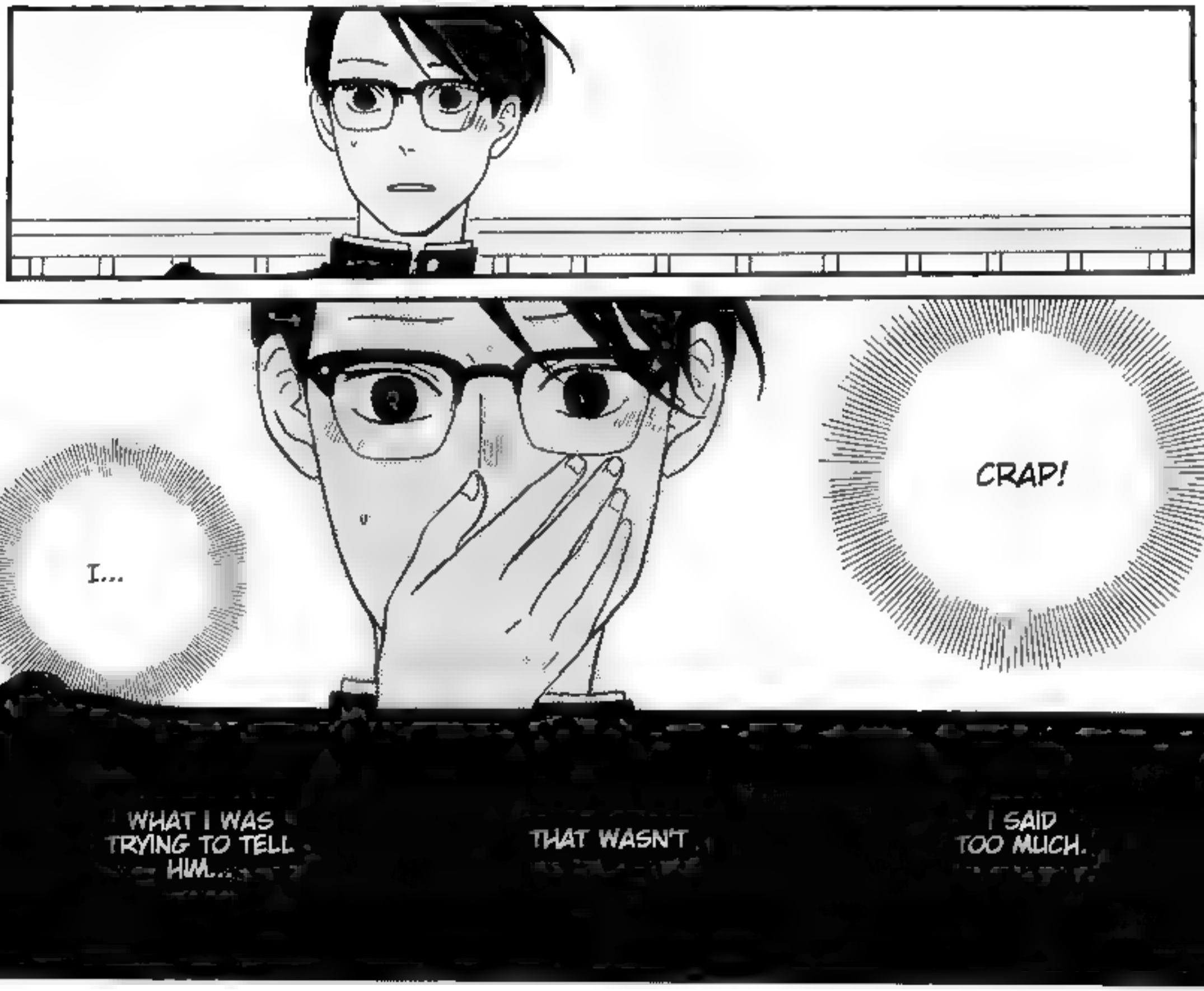
SIGH

YOU'RE HOPE-LESSLY DENSE.

OR ARE YOU SAYING,

THAT YOU'RE THE EXCEPTION...

坂道のアポロン④


I...
WHAT I WAS TRYING TO TELL HIM...
THAT WASN'T
CRAP!
I SAID TOO MUCH.

BECAUSE I KNOW
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF
TO TELL HIM THE REAL REASON

THE PAIN

OF FINDING OUT.

HE LOOKS UP TO JUN-NII...

ON TOP OF THAT,

"FORGET WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY"

IN ANY CASE,

I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

NO...

MAYBE I SHOULD START WITH A NEUTRAL TOPIC...

LIKE, "DID YOU KNOW THAT IMAGAWA-YAKI AND KAITEN-YAKI ARE THE SAME THING?"

"I'M SORRY"

"I WENT TOO FAR"

HE CAN TALK TO ABOUT THIS.

BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE,

HI!

WHAT IS IT?

HUH?

KAWABUCHI-KUN!

DIDN'T YOU GO ON A DATE WITH YURIKA-SENPAI RECENTLY?

WHY WITH THE GLOOMY FACE?

THAT'S STRANGE ...

YURIKA-SENPAI TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT THAT IT WAS "EXTREMELY FUN!"

AND SHE LOOKED REALLY HAPPY.

カリ

DID SHE SAY ANYTHING ELSE?

D,

...IS,

IS THAT TRUE...?

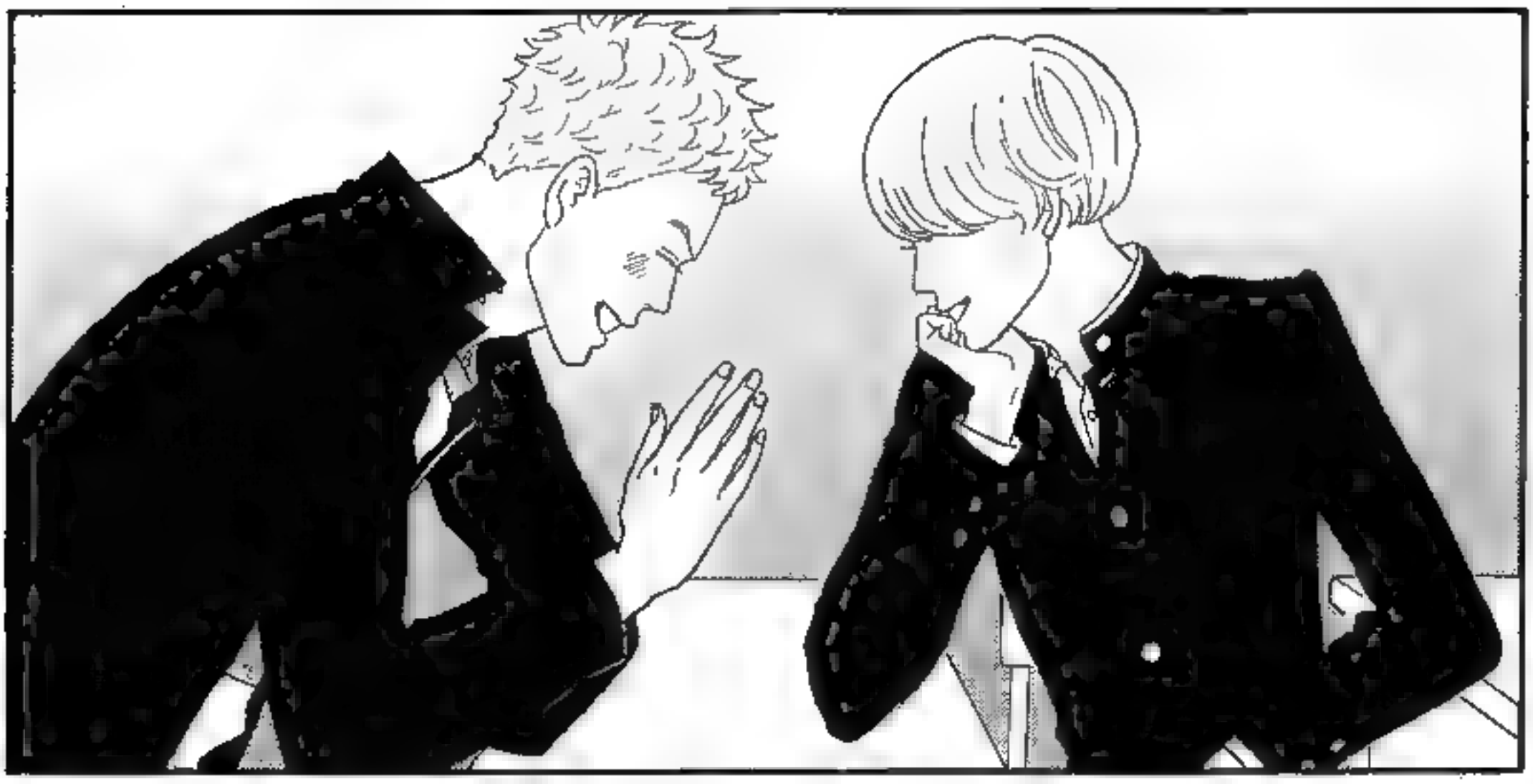
.....

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

坂道のアポロン④

THE ONLY ONE...

BECAUSE I'M



SCENE19

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

he's still wearing his indoor shoes
hehe

WHAT AM I,
SO FLUSTERED ABOUT?

坂道のアポロン④

T,

THAT'S TRUE...

IT WAS BOUND TO HAPPEN.

what?!

I'm sure I've made more than

HEY!

MADE ANY NEW FRIENDS YET?

I SAW SOMETHING I WASN'T USED TO.

I WAS JUST SURPRISED BECAUSE,

...AH

KAWABUCHI-KUN! WAIT FOR ME!

SE-

ちら

I WAS JUST...

.....

nun?

we're going to do a dissection today!

did you hear?

坂道のアポロン④

HEY.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING I SHOULD WORRY ABOUT.

THROWN OFF BY THE LOOK HE GAVE ME...

AH, SORRY!

WERE YOU ASKING ABOUT THE RECORD? I'LL GIVE IT BACK SOON.

ARE YOU LISTENING, SEIJI?

I FOUND SOMEONE WITH POTENTIAL.

I JUST NEED TO GIVE HIM A LITTLE PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

I MEN-TIONED THIS BEFORE, HAVEN'T I?

BUT,

COULD YOU LET ME BORROW IT FOR A LITTLE LONGER?

ばさっ

WELL,

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME WHO IT IS, ALREADY?

IT'S STILL A SECRET.

IF I SUCCEED, I'LL LET YOU KNOW.

ENJOY THE SUSPENSE!

RECORD SHOP●MUKAE

A''

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.

HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN!

...OH?

YOU'RE LATE, BON.

THE PART BON PLAYED IS STUCK IN MY HEAD!

SHALL WE TRY PLAYING "MY FAVOURITE THINGS" TOGETHER?

I THOUGHT, HE WOULD STILL BE MAD ABOUT YESTERDAY.

BUT HE SEEMS EVEN MORE CHEERFUL THAN BEFORE...

WHAT'S THIS?

Y, YEAH...

THE BEATLES
REALLY ...
THE RHYTHM OF THE WALTZ IS PRETTY FUN!
WHAT IS THIS?
...HEY,
HUH?
DIDN'T YOU SAY ONLY JAZZ IS ALLOWED IN THIS PLACE?

坂道のアポロン④

THAT MATSUOKA KID WITH THE MUSHROOM-LIKE HAIR,
OH, THAT.
TOLD ME TO LISTEN TO IT, AND EVEN MADE ME BORROW THIS.
BEATLES
I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, SO I BROUGHT IT WITH ME.
and he ran away fast.
bye!!
wait, you bastard!
HMM.
BUT HE SHOVED IT INTO MY BAG.
i'm not interested!
just take it!
I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD NO INTEREST IN ROCK,

IT'S THE WORLD-RENOWNED BEATLES.

WHY NOT?

I WON'T LISTEN TO A RECORD LIKE THAT.

W... WHAT?

NOTHING.

THE TWO OF YOU WERE CHATTING HAPPILY IN THE CLASS-ROOM!

I'VE SEEN YOU.

HUH?

FRIEND? WHO?

THAT'S GREAT.

YOU'VE MADE A FRIEND,

WHO WOULD EVEN LEND YOU HIS RECORDS.

WERE YOU CONFIDING IN HIM ABOUT YOUR LOVE PROBLEMS?

HEY, SEN.

CAN YOU COME FOR A MOMENT?

...HUH?

OKAY.

N,

NO...

IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS ASKING HIM ABOUT THAT...

SO HE TALKED ABOUT THOSE THINGS WITH MATSUOKA ...

I SEE ...

nope

did you get your hands on a new record?

I REALLY THOUGHT,

I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD UNDERSTAND HIM.

I'M A FOOL,

TO HAVE THOUGHT SO MUCH OF MYSELF.

HE CHEERED UP SO QUICKLY.

SO THAT'S WHY,

IF HE WILL LISTEN TO THAT RECORD.

THE BEATLES

I WONDER...

坂道のアポロン④

WHY AM I
FEELING SO RESTLESS?
WHAT AM I SO AFRAID OF?

OH.
THAT WAS FAST...

HEY, DO YOU KNOW WHERE HE IS?

KAWABUCHI-KUN ISN'T AROUND?

? THAT'S STRANGE

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL HIM

PARDON THE INTRUSION! ☆

WHO LET YOU IN...?

..WHA,

WHO ARE YOU..!?

坂道のアポロン④

D,
DONT TOUCH THEM...
HOW EXCITING!
I REALLY WANT TO HEAR HIM PLAY THE DRUMS!
ARE THESE KAWABUCHI-KUN'S DRUMS?
WOW!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED APPROVAL TO COME IN HERE.
THAT'S SO FORMAL!
HOW DID HE KNOW...
TELL YOU, ABOUT THIS PLACE...?
DID HE...

IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE ...

SIMPLY TELL SOMEONE ABOUT THIS PLACE.

THERE'S NO WAY HE WOULD,

NO, THAT CAN'T BE POSSIBLE.

WHAT?

WHAT IF HE DID?

SO I CAN JUDGE FOR MYSELF,

IF HIS DRUMMING IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR OUR ROCK BAND.

ACTUALLY,

I CAME TODAY TO SEE KAWABUCHI-KUN'S DRUMMING SKILLS.

HEY, IT'S ALREADY THE GENERATION OF ROCK!

NO ONE'S GOING TO BE LISTENING TO JAZZ ANY MORE.

WHAT IS HE SAYING...

WHA,

R,

ROCK?

REALLY?

YOU WON'T KNOW FOR SURE UNLESS YOU ASK HIM, RIGHT?

LET ME TELL YOU THIS.

HE'S ALWAYS BEEN FAITHFUL TO JAZZ.

HE'S NOT GOING TO SWITCH TO ROCK JUST BECAUSE IT'S GETTING POPULAR.

...NOPE.

AH...

I'M SO SORRY, KAWABUCHI-KUN...

I DIDN'T KNOW THIS PLACE WAS OFF BOUNDS, SO I...

I'LL BE LEAVING NOW!

DON'T MAKE SUCH A SCARY FACE!

OKAY?

GET OUT.

THIS SACRED SPACE ANY FURTHER.

THIS PLACE IS OFF-BOUNDS TO STRANGERS.

ESPECIALLY TO PEOPLE WHO LOOK DOWN ON JAZZ.

STOP DISGRACING,

THERE'S NO NEED TO ASK ME.

HE KNOWS ME BEST.

WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRES-SION?

SO HE HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES...

...MÄN.

AND I WAS WONDERING WHY HE WAS BEING SO PERSISTENT.

COME ON.

LET'S PRACTICE.

"HE KNOWS ME BEST"

THIS IS BAD.

I'M ABOUT TO CRY.

I NEVER EXPECTED THAT.

WHAT DID UNCLE WANT WITH YOU?

AH,

WE NEED TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT ...

OH,

THERE WAS A LETTER FROM JUN-NII.

I CAN'T ...

I MUSN'T LET MY TEARS FALL...

JUN...

"I'M SORRY FOR BEING AWAY WHEN SEN-BOU AND KAORU-KUN CAME OVER TO VISIT."

IT'S MORE OF A NOTE THAN A LETTER, THOUGH.

EH?

"I'LL BE TRAVELLING FOR A WHILE, SO I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP IN TOUCH"

"THINGS HAVE GOTTEN QUITE TROUBLESOME AT SCHOOL, SO I'M CURRENTLY ON A SHORT TRIP"

※SENTAROU'S IMAGINATION

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO TRAVEL AT HIS OWN PACE.

I HOPE HE WON'T SAY THAT HE CAN'T COME BACK THIS SUMMER OR SOMETHING.

FOR NOW, I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT HE'S SAFE.

"I'M DOING WELL, SO DON'T WORRY"

THAT WAS ALL HE WROTE.

THIS SUMMER

COMES BACK...

IF JUN-NII SAN,

WHY ARE YOU SPACING OUT?

LET'S BEGIN!

BON?

WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO SAY WAS...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THOSE THINGS.

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

...SEN,

UM...

.....

.....

UM...

ACTUALLY, I UNDERSTAND.

BON.

坂道のアポロン④

ドンッ ドンッ

IT'S TRUE THAT WE DON'T SUIT EACH OTHER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

!?

THAT YURIKA-SAN LIVES IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLD FROM MINE.

...ALSO

I REALIZED THIS AFTER THE DATE,

IN ORDER TO BE LOVED BY A GIRL LIKE HER.

I NEED TO BECOME AN ADULT... LIKE JUN-NII,

I'M STILL A CHILD.

...SO, THIS LOVE THING,

WASN'T AS EASY AS I THOUGHT.

THE FUTURE LOOKS BLEAK!

I'LL BE IN YOUR CARE FROM NOW ON.

I'D BE USELESS ON MY OWN!

IF I DIDN'T HAVE BON TO TALK TO,

REALLY,

hehe, that's true

FROM NOW ON,

YOU'LL PROBABLY IGNORE MY ADVICE AND ACT ON YOUR OWN, AGAIN.

BUT KNOWING YOU,

THAT CAN'T BE HELPED, THEN...

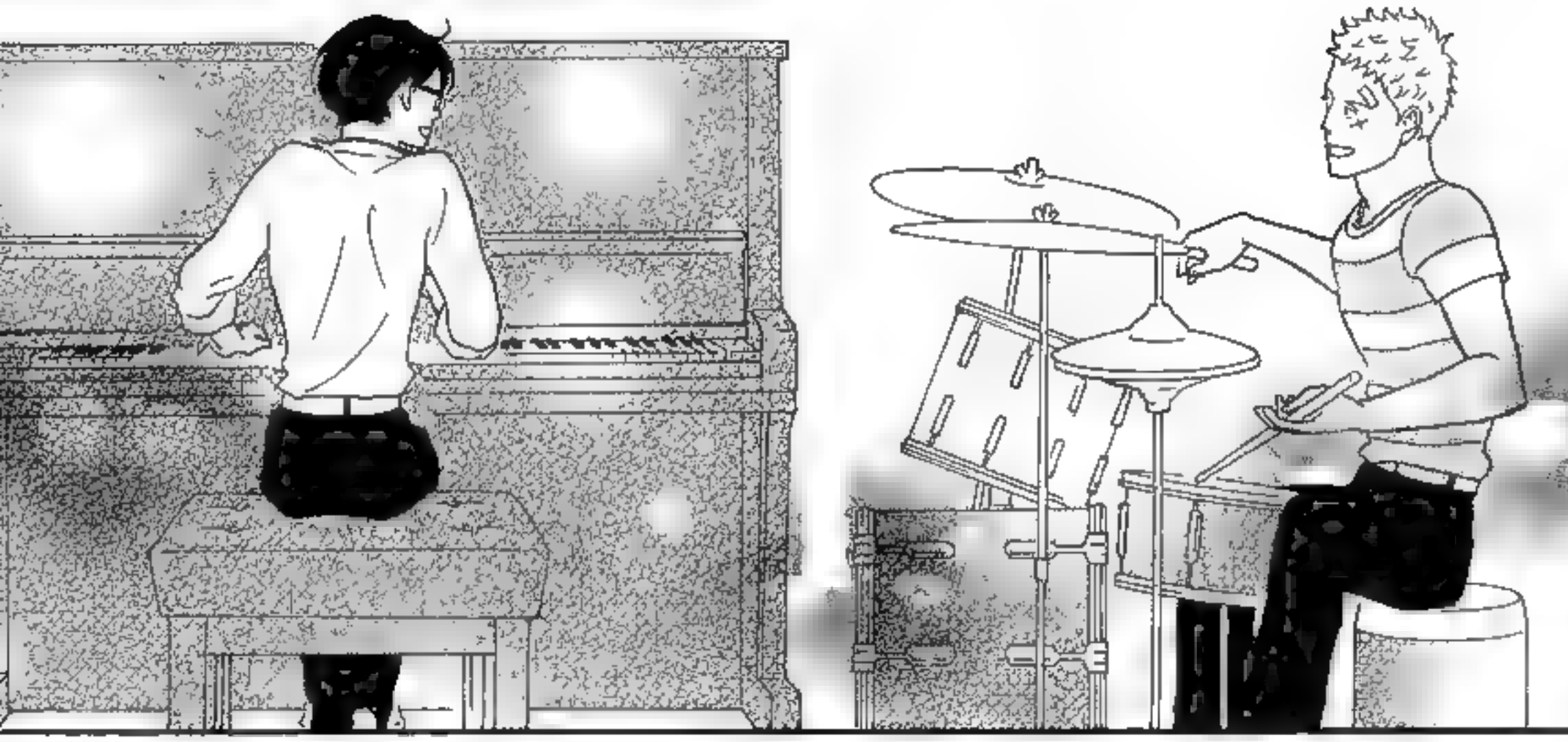
I UNDER-STAND.

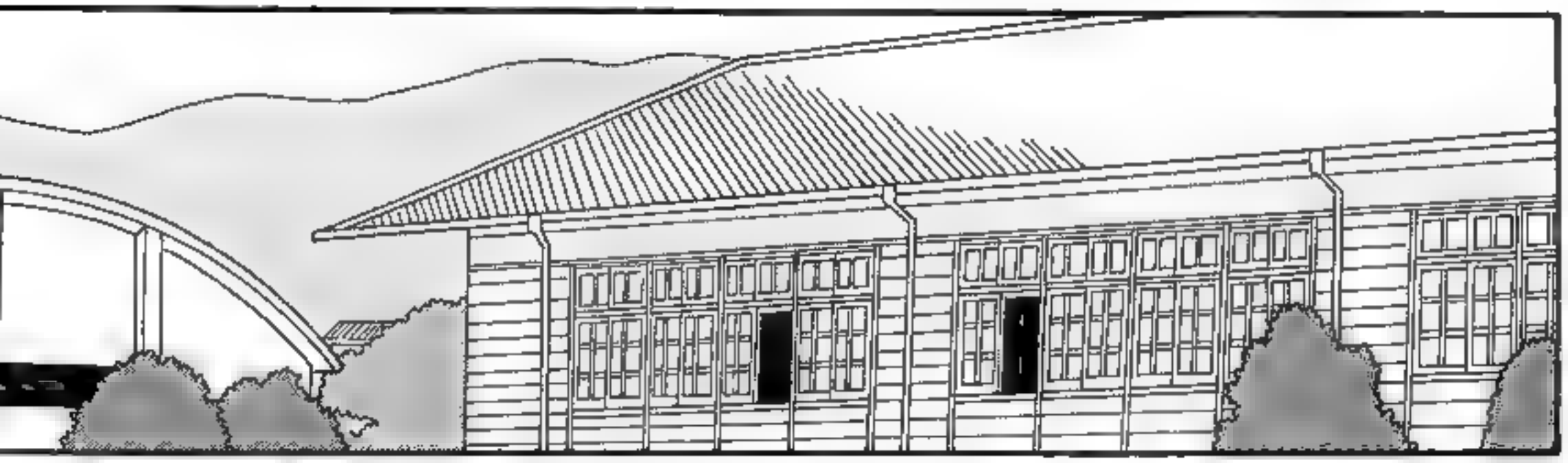
IF HE ENDS UP GETTING THE SHORT END OF THE STICK,

I'LL BE HIS ALLY.

I'LL STOP SAYING UNNECESSARY THINGS.

THEN, I'LL BE BY HIS SIDE.





GAH!

BUT PLEASE, LISTEN.

STOP FOLLOWING ME AROUND!!

THAT WAS THOUGHT-LESS OF ME!

I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY, KAWABUCHI-KUN

体重

HMPH

HEY, JAZZ MAY BE FUN AND ALL,

BUT ROCK IS FUN TOO! I BET YOU'LL COME TO LOVE IT.

ISN'T THE PURPOSE OF MUSIC TO MAKE GIRLS GO CRAZY FOR YOU?

YOU'RE A STRANGE ONE!

EEH?

I DON'T LIKE MUSIC WITH A BUNCH OF GIRLS GOING CRAZY OVER IT.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT, KAWABUCHI-KUN

IT'S JUST A BAND FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.

WE'RE JUST ASKING YOU TO PLAY WITH US TILL AUTUMN!

.....

IN ANY CASE, I'M NOT INTERESTED.

I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO THE RECORD, SO I'LL GIVE IT BACK TOMORROW.

BUT I AM!

MY DREAM IS TO BECOME A STAR AND GO ON TELEVISION.

NOT INTER-ESTED.

DON'T YOU WANT TO BECOME POPULAR AT THE CULTURE FESTIVAL?

I'M PRACTICING SPEAKING WITHOUT AN ACCENT, TOO!

A STAR MUSN'T HAVE AN ACCENT!

STAR ...?

(NOTE: SEIJI'S NAME IS WRITTEN WITH THE CHARACTERS FOR STAR AND CHILD)

I HAVE MANY SIBLINGS,

SO IF WE DON'T USE OBVIOUS TAGS, OUR CLOTHES WILL GET MIXED UP.

AND WE'RE POOR, SO WE CAN'T AFFORD NEW ONES ALL THE TIME.

星児

WHAT'S WITH YOUR UNDER-WEAR?

ARE THOSE THE UNDER-PANTS OF SOMEONE AIMING TO BECOME A STAR?

AH, THIS?

星児
SEIJI

!!

THEN GO TO TOKYO TO BECOME A SUPER-POPULAR CELEBRITY

I WANT TO GRADUATE QUICKLY,

SO MY PARENTS CAN LIVE IN COMFORT.

坂道のアポロン④

I WANT TO PROVE THAT,

BUT I'M GOOD AT SINGING IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE.

SO I'M PRETTY USELESS,

UNLIKE MY SIBLINGS, I'M NOT VERY BRIGHT, NOR DO I HAVE THE STATURE TO DO MANUAL WORK,

EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME,

IS CAPABLE OF SUPPORTING HIS OWN FAMILY.

THE ROCK BAND,

IS JUST ONE STEP IN MY PLAN.

SO,

LEND ME YOUR STRENGTH.

KAWABUCHI-KUN.

I'LL BE WAITING!

I'M NOT, OKAY!

WELL, THAT'S HOW IT IS, SO GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT!

BYE!

HEY, WAIT!

I'M NOT DOING IT!

I'M BACK.

ガラガラ

OH, YOU'RE BACK, SENTAROU.

THE FOOD WILL BE READY SOON.

WELCOME HOME, NII-CHAN!

WELCOME BACK!

OKAY.

KAWABUCHI-KUN.

YOUR STRENGTH.

LEND ME

SCENE 20
シーン

ジャジャジャジャジャジャ

ジャーン!

ギター

I'M NOT VERY GOOD AT IT YET...

!!

...

WELL,

ISN'T IT, YAMAOKA-KUN!!

YEAH ...

lost to maruo

THAT'S AMAZING, MARUO-KUN! IT'S BETTER THAN WHAT I EXPECTED!

SO I TRIED IT TOO...

WHERE DID YOU LEARN TO PLAY THE GUITAR?

IT'S AWE-SOME!

UM... MY BROTHER REALLY LIKES THE VENTURES, SO HE PLAYS THE GUITAR A LOT.

坂道のアポロン④

I'M JUST WAITING FOR HIS RESPONSE.
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOO PERSISTENT.
DIDN'T YOU SAY IT WAS GOING TO TAKE JUST ONE LITTLE PUSH?
YEAH.
LEFT WITH THE DRUMS...
NOW WE'RE
SO WHO'S THIS MYSTERY DRUMMER?
don't say strange things
IT'S A SECRET.
MAYBE I SHOULD GO WORK MY CHARMS ON HIM INSTEAD OF WAITING.
SIGH...

I'LL GO GET IT.

OH... I FORGOT THE DUSTPAN ...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING! TODAY IS THE SCHOOL CLEANUP...

AH,

BUT AT LEAST I DIDN'T SKIP.

OH,

RIKKO.

RIKKO, ARE YOU FREE ON SUNDAY TOMORROW?

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,

TAKE THOSE TWERPS AT HOME

MOM TOLD ME TO

BUT ...

...EH?

ぼり ぼり

SHELL-GATHERING AT THE BEACH.

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE OCEAN TOGETHER?

...AH

WELL, IF YOU AREN'T FREE ...

IT'S TIRING IF I HAVE TO LOOK AFTER ALL OF THEM ON MY OWN.

SO, COULD YOU COME HELP ME OUT?

let's have a shell-gathering competition.

are you free this sunday?

BON!!

HEY, WAIT!

IS IT SOME KIND OF GAME?

I'LL GO...

HEY, SENTAROU ...

RICCHAN, WHAT'S SHELL-GATHERING?

坂道のアポロン④

AH,

I GUESS ... I'LL GO TOO.

KAORU-SAN'S GOING, RIGHT?

EH? UH, WELL,

IT'S BECAUSE THIS GUY WAS SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A COMPETITION ...

ARE YOU COMING TOO, RICCHAN?

HEHE, YOU SURE SAY SOME INTERESTING THINGS, KAORU-SAN!

SHELL-GATHERING IS JUST GATHERING SHELLFISH!

IT'S THE THREE OF US, THEN!

IT'S GOING TO BE FUN!

ALRIGHT!

YEAH ...

WELL, I DON'T MI..

ND..

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE WENT TO THE BEACH TOGETHER!

stop spinning!

wahaha!

kya! stop it!

ricchan, the dustpan!

TO PREPARE MYSELF FOR THIS.

I NEED

...HAPPI-NESS,

OR SO I THOUGHT, BUT...

AND PRAY FOR RICCHAN'S...

I NEED TO HIDE,

IF THOSE TWO

SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG,

isn't this a beautiful sky?

坂道のアポロン④

I GOT THE WRONG IDEA?

sit down properly, taichi!

just a little more!

ni-chan, I can we see the sea yet?

can i have a look at the lunch box?

MAYBE...

not yet!

あー

ゴオオン

AND DON'T GO TOO DEEP, TAICHI!

DON'T LOSE YOUR SHOES!

COME TO THINK OF IT,

IT SURE IS LIVELY HERE!

WOW!

HAVE HAPPENED SINCE, BUT,

LOTS OF THINGS,

you've gotten good at this, Oh-chan!

THE THREE OF US,

CAME HERE LAST YEAR, TOO.

OUR SHELL-GATHERING COMPETITION IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!

LET'S GO, KAORU-SAN!

nope. that's a short-necked clam!

it's a hamaguri clam!

did you get it?

WE MANAGED TO COME HERE TOGETHER, AGAIN.

OKAY!

WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!

KAWABUCHI-KUN.

FOUND ANY SHELLFISH?

IT LOOKS FUN WITH ALL THESE KIDS AROUND!

nishimi-kun_?

?

eh? don't tell me-

kawabuchi...?

KAORU-SAN

DO YOU KNOW THAT PERSON?

AH!

I KNOW A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FIND RAZOR CLAMS!

WHAT CUTE LITTLE BOYS AND GIRLS!

WANT TO COME ALONG WITH ME?

RAZOR CLAMS?

are they cute?

I KNEW IT HAD TO BE YOU!

THAT YOU'RE AN **EXTREMELY CUTE** GIRL WHO'S GREAT FRIENDS WITH KAWABUCHI-KUN!

eh? eh?

AH, I'M MATSUOKA, FROM THE SAME CLASS AS KAWABUCHI-KUN!

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM YURIKA-SENPAI!

YOU MUST BE RITSUKO-CHAN!

WANT TO COME ALONG, KAWABUCHI-KUN?

IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE!

HEY, WHERE ARE THE RAZOR CLAMS?

COME!

AH, SORRY!

.....

WHAT'S WITH HIM?

SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT,

EVEN SWEET-TALKING THE KIDS ...

...NO,

DON'T BLAME HIM FOR HIS CAREFREE MANNER.

you're tall!

how old are you?

HE HAS HIS GOOD POINTS.

OKAY.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, SEN?

LET'S GO, NII-CHAN!

EH..?

AND YOU WERE SO...

HE'S THE PERSON WHO INTRUDED UPON OUR SACRED SPACE.

ME!

WHO WANTS TO TRY?

ISN'T THAT INTEREST-ING?

UWA!

THE CLAM WILL POP OUT ON IT'S OWN.

WHEN YOU DRIZZLE A LITTLE SALT,

JUST LIKE THIS,

ARE YOU INSANE!? ANYONE BUT HIM!

WERE YOU CONSIDERING KAWABUCHI AS OUR DRUMMER!?

YEAH.

I'M AGAINST IT TOO...!

HEY!

HEY, SEIJI!

you've got to share it among yourselves!

salt!

SHE SAID THAT HE WAS AN EASY-GOING GUY AND THAT HIS DRUMMING LEVEL WAS FAR BEYOND MOST HIGH SCHOOLERS.

THE SEAL OF APPROVAL FROM SENPAI, WHO IS KNOWN FOR HER PICKY TASTE IN MUSIC AND ART.

HIS DRUMMING HAS,

HE'S A GENTLE PERSON.

BUT TO THE PEOPLE HE TRUSTS,

HE DOES SEEM THAT WAY IN SCHOOL,

NOT AS SCARY AS YOU THINK.

ANYWAY, HE'S

WE NEED TO GET RID OF THE THINGS THAT ARE HOLDING HIM BACK,

AND EVERYTHING WILL GO AS PLANNED.

SO,

I'M GOING TO DIG UP A TON OF ASARI CLAMS TODAY!

WAIT UP, SEIJI!

SEIJI!

mm!

WELL, THAT'S THE HARDEST PART.

I'M GOING SHELL-GATHERING TOO!

look, niichan!

wow, that's a lot of razor clams!

.....

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.

I'M...
NOT VERY GOOD WITH THAT MATSUOKA.

I'M FINE...
YOU GO ON AHEAD, RICCHAN.
LET'S GO, TOO!

eh? what? a crab?
crab!

OH DEAR! I THINK HE GOT HURT!
I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK!

AH!
WHAT'S WRONG, TAICHI?

!

aha-haha!

whew. that's a relief!

are you hurt?

you just got a shock being pinched by a crab!

ahahaha!

kyahaha

ahaha!

...EH?

UWA...!

WELL, NEVER MIND.

an irregular pulse?

HE-Y!

WHAT WAS THAT?

THE TIDE CAME IN SO SUDDENLY ...

Cola...

...I GOT A SHOCK!

WOW ...!

YOU FOUND A LOT!

I'M A STRATEGIST WHEN IT COMES TO COMPETITIONS.

DON'T UNDERESTI-MATE ME!

DID YOU MANAGE TO FIND ANY ASARI CLAMS?

BON!

WELL,

I CAN'T LOSE, EITHER!

ｶﾞﾊﾞ

IT'S A SHELL-GATHERING BATTLE!!

HERE GOES!

I'M NOT GIVING YOU THAT RECORD! WATCH ME, I'M WINNING THIS!

buy it yourself you rich kid!

there's a limit on my allowance too!

I LIKE HORACE SILVER TOO!

FUHAHA! ONLY IF YOU CAN!

HUH!?

WHAT ARE WE BETTING ON THIS BATTLE?

HOW ABOUT THE RECORD RICCHAN'S DAD GAVE YOU THE OTHER DAY?

WHAT ABOUT THE BEATLES?

THAT RECORD'S GOING TO BE MINE-

DON'T WORRY!

YOU CAN RETURN IT ANY TIME.

BUT I WANT TO KNOW YOUR OPINION.

AH...

I HAVEN'T RETURNED IT, HAVE I?

YEAH...

000

THERE'S NO WAY SEN WOULD LISTEN TO ROCK...

WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?

I LISTENED TO IT A COUPLE OF TIMES,

AND IT WASN'T TOO BAD.

I THOUGHT I'D HELP OUT,

IT'S JUST THAT,

WITH YOUR BAND FOR THE CULTURE FESTIVAL.

HOW DID YOU FIND RINGO STARR!?

ARE YOU INTERESTED NOW!?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

WILL YOU JOIN OUR ROCK BAND!?

REALLY!?

!!

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

BON,

EH?

WAIT.

YEAH.

I KNOW!

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN IN TOO?

"WE'LL JUST BE A LITTLE FURTHER APART, NISHIMI-KUN."

I'LL JUST BE AWAY FOR A BIT,

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT QUITTING JAZZ OR ANYTHING.

TILL THE CULTURE FESTIVAL IS OVER.

THIS ISN'T A JOKE!

I'LL ASK HIM...

GO AND PLAY YOUR ROCK OR WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT!

YOU TRAITOR ...!

I'VE MIS-JUDGED YOU,

BO,

ガッ?

BON!

LISTEN TO ME ...

BON, WAIT!

DON'T TOUCH ME!

I'M NOT LISTENING!

THE LIKES OF YOU!

DO AS YOU WISH.

I DON'T NEED

KAORU-SAN!

KAORU-SAN, WAIT...

KAORU-SAN!

AH,

I DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY OF THIS.

キャハハハ!

BUT I HAVE TO LAUGH...

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

LET ME IN ON IT TOO ...

H, HEY

THAT WHAT I'M DOING IS CHILDISH.

I KNOW PERFECTLY WELL,

BUT IF I DIDN'T,

I'M AFRAID...

坂道のアポロン④

POST

LET'S WRITE LETTERS TO EACH OTHER!

I'LL DEFINITELY REPLY.

Is that so?

he said that he liked planes, so i'm going to use a stamp with a plane on it

WE'LL STILL BE FRIENDS EVEN AFTER YOUR TRANSFER!

WE'LL JUST BE A LITTLE FURTHER APART, NISHIMI-KUN

I HAVE TO BE ACCEPTED BY THEM.

I HAVE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS.

AND THE NEXT.

AND THE NEXT,

IN THIS SCHOOL,

A LITTLE CREEPY.

NISHIMI-KUN'S SMILE IS

ゲほっ

ゴほっ

ゴほっ

I DON'T NEED FRIENDS.

I'M TIRED OF IT ALL.

I CAN'T TAKE THIS ANYMORE.

DON'T TOUCH ME.

DON'T LOOK AT ME.

FORGOTTEN.

I HAD

坂道のアポロン④

EVER SINCE I CAME HERE,

I WAS NEVER SOMEONE WHO COULD GET ALONG WELL WITH OTHERS.

FORGOTTEN THAT.

I'VE

I WAS TERRIFIED OF LOSING HIM.

SINCE HE WAS THE FIRST PERSON I FELT I COULD TRUST.

I CHOSE TO END IT MYSELF.

AND SO,

I CAN'T STAND IT, MYSELF.

THAT WAS TERRIBLE OF ME...

ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?

HE WILL HAVE NEW FRIENDS, AND MUSIC.

BUT NOW,

NO PROBLEM.

THERE IS

I'M JUST RETURNING TO WHERE I WAS BEFORE.

EVENING!

WELCOME

BAR

Long time no see!

HEY, TSU-TOMU!

!

DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME, CARL-SAN

YOU GAVE ME A FRIGHT!

URK!

HM?

WHY ARE YOU WHIS-PERING?

TSUTOMU-CHAN!

YOU CAME AT A GOOD TIME!

?

LOOK,

AT THE FAR END OF THE COUNTER.

カラ-ン。

……

IT CAN'T BE...

カラ-ン!

〈坂道のアポロン〉④＊おわり＊
SAKAMICHI NO APOLLON ④ END

AFTERWORD

THANKS TO EVERYONE, THIS SERIES HAS REACHED THE FOURTH VOLUME.

I'M VERY GLAD TO HAVE RECEIVED LETTERS FROM THE READERS!

I'LL PROBABLY NEVER GET THIS AMOUNT OF MAIL EVER AGAIN.

I'VE RECEIVED SOME QUESTIONS (YAY!), SO I'LL ANSWER THEM HERE.

-ARE THE CHARACTERS BASED OFF REAL PEOPLE? (OSAKA, T-SAN)

NOT REALLY. BUT I DID BORROW SOME NAMES FROM PEOPLE I KNOW, AND REFER TO HOW SOME PEOPLE PLAY INSTRUMENTS.

-WHAT ARE THE HEIGHTS OF THE CHARACTERS? (KANAGAWA, W-SAN)

THEY ARE STILL IN HIGH-SCHOOL, AND I THINK THE BOYS STILL HAVE POTENTIAL TO GROW TALLER... BUT ANYWAY, KAORU'S HEIGHT WHEN HE HAD FIRST TRANSFERRED INTO THE SCHOOL IS 156 CM, AROUND THE SAME AS RITSUKO. SENTAROU IS ABOUT ONE HEAD TALLER.

COMPARED TO THE MODERN HIGH-SCHOOLER, THEY ARE MUCH SHORTER.

-ARE YOU A CAT OR DOG PERSON?

I PREFER DOGS. ESPECIALLY JAPANESE BREEDS.

-DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVOURITE MOVIES, MUSIC OR MANGA? (TOKYO, YOSAKO-SAN AND E-SAND)

MUSIC... JAZZ... I WOULD LIKE TO SAY SO, BUT IT'S EMBARASSING(?)

MOVIES... THOSE DIRECTED BY TR?N ANH HUNG (BUT I HAVEN'T SEEN HIS LATEST PRODUCTION), AND OOMORI NOBUHIKO'S ONOMICHI TRILOGY.

MANGA... I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T READ ENOUGH MANGA TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION, BUT RECENTLY, I FOUND MOROHOSHI DAIJIROU'S SAIYUKI YOUENDEN TO BE VERY COOL!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTERS.

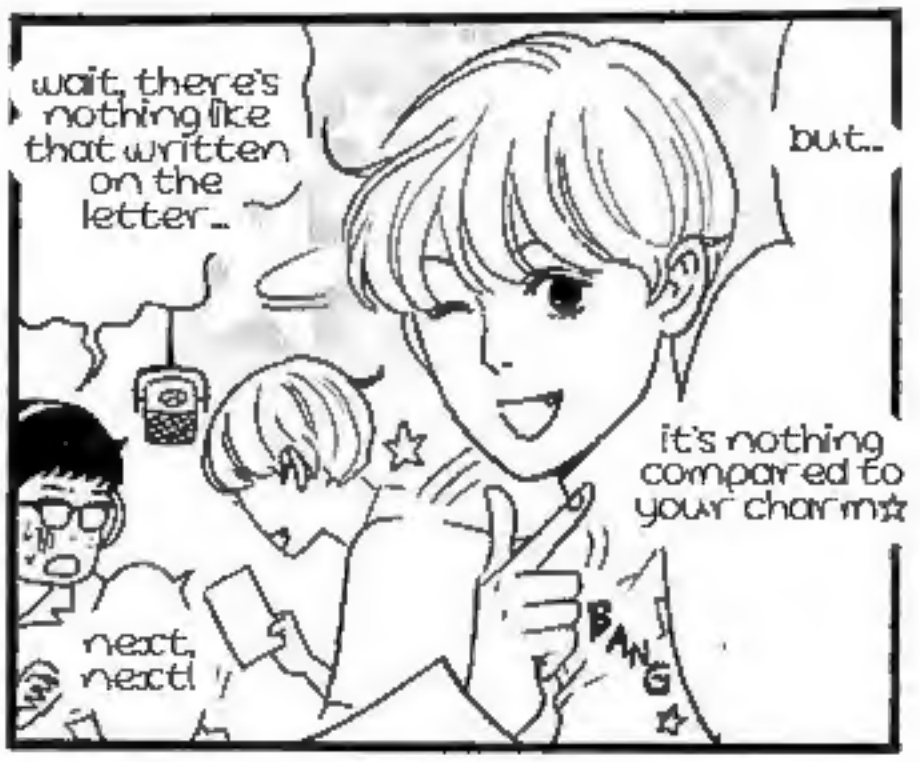
I MANAGED TO DO THE Q&A CORNER I ALWAYS WANTED TO.

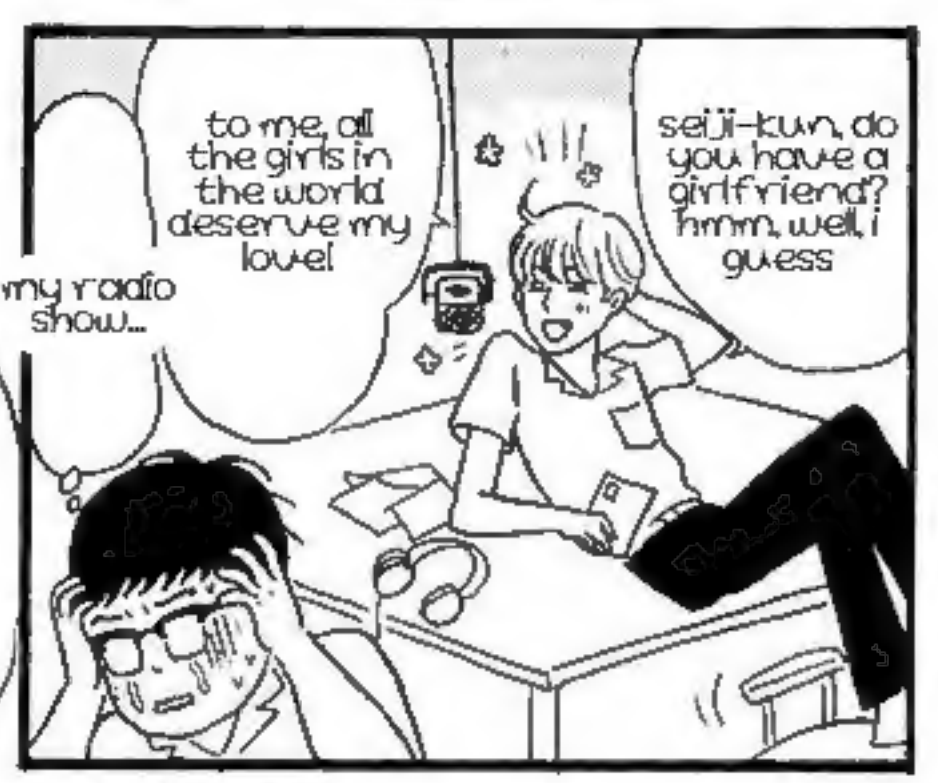
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 5.

KODAMA YUKI

shigetora radio show

we will now introduce the letters from our readers..
it has begun! the all-new shigetora radio show.
hi maruo-kun, what are you doing?





will the shigetora radio show survive?!
see you in the next volume!